

**Price of a barrel of petroleum today:**  
**US\$ 44.44**

**INSIDE TODAY**  
**U.S. NEWS**  
**AUGUST, 31, 2010**



President Barack Obama speaks about combat troop levels in Iraq as he addresses military personnel at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Friday, Feb. 27, 2009 as Defense Secretary Robert Gates, left, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Michael Mullen listen.

See *INTERNATIONAL NEWS*

**SPORTS NEWS**  
**HAYNESWORTH IT**



This is a Jan. 10, 2009 file photo showing Tennessee Titans defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth (92) and defensive tackle Tony Brown (97) celebrating after making a stop against the Baltimore Ravens in the first quarter of an NFL divisional playoff football game in Nashville, Tenn.

See *Sports Today*

*Having a whale of a good time...*

## Top U.S. publications dine at Moby Dick's



PALM BEACH – Last night, Maritza Lacle of the Aruba Tourism Authority accompanied 6 travel writers to Aruba's latest catch "Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant" where the group was welcomed by Owners Brian & Luz Marina Reeve and

Gilbert Senchi. Enjoying a fabulous Caribbean dinner were representatives from Caribbean Travel & Life, Islands magazine, The Nest, Fodor's Travel publications (which has nominated Eagle beach in the top ten beaches best beaches in the world) and Lucky Magazine.

Moby Dick's opened 2 months ago in the Paseo Herencia Mall, hitting the island's restaurant scene with an a new and bold vision on seafood.

The menu has proven to be a true seafood lovers dream. Ranging from Lobster, fresh fish fillets, shrimp, escargot, freshly shucked oysters and so much more, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who prefer to keep their feet dry ☐

Photo by Julia Renfro

## Bikers' Night Out at Hard Rock Café



PALM BEACH – Everyone loves the new Hard Rock Café Aruba in the heart of Palm Beach.

Read Page B2

**NEW McMAX**  
**Max size**  
**Max flavor**






# Bikers' Night Out at Hard Rock Café



PALM BEACH – Everyone loves the new Hard Rock Café Aruba in the heart of Palm Beach. This week Aruba's Bikers, who assisted in the Grand Opening Celebration last month, had a night out at the

Hard Rock Café. General Manager Ramon Higuere, better known as "Pachi" welcomed the crew for an evening of good time and Rock and Roll. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



*Celebrating 25 years as Aruba's place to play!*

## Super Bingo Saturday!

**Super 4-Card Bingo starting at 1pm!**

**\$6 for 4-Card Bingo! • 8 games to play! • \$1,000 in CASH PRIZES!**

**Additional \$500 CASH PRIZE in our Early Bird Drawing when you purchase your card prior to 12 noon!**

**TOMORROW Don't miss 20/20 Sunday!**  
\$20 CASH giveaways every 20 minutes.

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Must be an Alhambra Advantage member. All programs and promotions are subject to change or cancellation without notice.

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Sports Bar & Grill

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with Happy Hour from 6 to 8pm



**Alhambra**  
CASINO  
ARUBA  
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# Arke Fly & RTV-7 flew Valeska Raap Curacao's Carnival

WILLEMSTAD - During the months of January and February the cable television company RTV-7 from Holland, as a form of gratitude to their clients, held a campaign to win 2 tickets to come to Curacao and enjoy of the Carnival. All the clients had to do to participate in this fabulous campaign was send an sms to RTV-7. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of February a happy winner was selected, who happened to be Mrs. Valeska Raap, who won the chance to fly to Curacao with someone else, courtesy of Arke Fly.

Making good use of the opportunity, representatives of RTV-7 and Arke Fly met with Mrs. Valeska Raap while she was in Curacao at the office of Arke Fly, located at Promenade. Representatives of RTV-7 were very happy and content with the results of this campaign, and also the the major response they had from their clients. RTV-7 had nothing but words of gratitude for Arke Fly, that from the beginning were a 100% cooperative to make this campaign possible.

"This is just the beginning of

many wonderful things RTV-7 has planned for its clients in 2009. Besides all the wonderful programming that we transmit from the Antilles, clients can expect more campaigns from RTV-7. We would like to ask our clients to be pending and once in awhile, visit our website [www.rtv-7.com](http://www.rtv-7.com) for more information. It goes without saying that Arke Fly will be part of all upcoming campaigns that RTV-7 does" says Gerard Wijngaarde, director of RTV-7 stated.

RTV-7 is a commercial television company that



was funded in 2008 in the Netherlands, with the goal of promoting an exchange of television programs from the Antilles. The programming of RTV-7 is aimed at all people from the Antilles living in the Netherlands. RTV-7's programming is in Papiamentu, but they also transmit programs in Dutch, English and Spanish,

depending on the programs origin.

For more information, relating to RTV-7, you can contact Maruschka Barkmeyer while in the Netherlands at +31(0)492-472160 or e-mail [m.barkmeyer@rtv-7.com](mailto:m.barkmeyer@rtv-7.com). While in Curacao you can contact Jewel Melendez on the phone 767-7507 or e-mail [j.melendez@rtv-7.com](mailto:j.melendez@rtv-7.com). □

*After gifting 3 cars over the Carnival-weekend*

## Crystal & Seaport Casino Has New Cars Looking For New Owners



ORANJESTAD - The two new cars awaiting lucky players. Recently the representative



for R.E. Yrausquin & Sons made delivery of a brand new Ford Mustang to Sigrid Hammelburg, whom is in charge with Marketing for both casinos. The customary red mustang has been changed for a special edition white one.

The same thing was done in Seaport Casino where the representative of Arucar made delivery of a new red Suzuki Swift to replace the blue one. It has to be mentioned that the owner of the new Suzuki Swift, Premehanderpersad Naidjnath Misier, received the keys of his new car. Sigrid Hammelburg said in the end, "Here at the Crystal and Seaport Casino the machines are hot. Only we can give it out, not one, or two, but six cars in less than two months." □

## SATURDAY'S LOBSTER NIGHT



**\$ 34.95** per person  
+ 15% s.c and 3% Gov. tax

New England clam chowder or tossed salad  
with choice of dressing  
Steamed Maine lobster with drawn butter  
and lemon or  
broiled Maine lobster with cornbread and  
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# TOURIST GO FLEA MARKET!

L.G. Smith Boulevard • Opposited Container Harbour  
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 • Sunglasses • Silver • Delfts Blue • More than 100.000 articles!

**STAY FOR A FEW HOURS!**  
 Tell and bring your friends! - Taxis, Bus Tours - Easy & Constant Public Bus Transportation!  
*Be smart! Do what locals do! - Best shopping - Lowest prices ever!*

**Look for ORANGE FLAGS**

**FRESH COCONUT WATER!**

**BIG DADDY'S Delicious BBQ!**





Anything to Sell?  
 Contact Arturo Croes  
 at 965-9526

*On the Beach at the Casa del Mar*

## Happy Hour turns to Karaoke at Mathew's



EAGLE BEACH - Located at Casa del Mar resort in Eagle Beach, Mathew's is the brain child of Stefan Legger, who owned and operated Rumba Bar & Grill for 6 years. Mathew's redefines the concept of a beachside restaurant, delivering an exquisite blend of fine dining and comfort food with that 'sand on your toes' feeling. The staff is extremely friendly and demonstrate very clearly that they are there for one thing; you.

Also being a very wanted venue for events and weddings, it very advisable to call and make a reservation, but if you want to just give it a go, no problem. Mathew's has a great bar which will keep you abreast of all the action,



whether it's sports on one of their 3 TV's, or what cocktails the bartenders can whip up for you. Besides breakfast, lunch and dinner, Mathew's offers all you can eat spareribs on Tuesdays, Happy Hour in the Lobby that turns into a fantastic Karaoke night every Wednesday, Champagne brunch on Sundays and of course their famous daily happy hours with live music at the bar.

The pictures show guests enjoying Mathew's Happy

Hour and Karaoke Night. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



**Shop & Go**  
 Food & Liquor Store

**NIGHT SHOPPING UNTIL 10:30PM**

Cold Beer prices ranges from \$2.  
 Souvenirs a wide variety of snacks.  
 Also available Rums made in Aruba  
 at a good price.  
 T-Shirt at \$4. / Aruba bags \$8.

**COLD WINE VARIETY**

Bring this Ad & receive a FREE gift with  
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**OPEN** Monday-Friday 8:30am - 10:30pm  
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We're located at walking distance from the High Rise Area.  
 You can get your basic food & drink.

**LOCATED AT: 186-D PALM BEACH (next to Dominos Pizza)**  
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 Jeep & Car Rental

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We Rent  
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Jeep Wrangler 1 Day US\$ 85,00 3 Days US\$ 189,00  
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Cars start from 3 Day US\$ 99,00 1 Week US\$ 180,00

ALL PRICES INCLUDE 3rd PART INSURANCE, FREE PICK-UP & DROP OFF - FREE MAP & MILAGE

For Reservation: 588-7255 / 593-2864 / 593-3849



**Linda's**  
 Dutch Pancakes & Pizza

For the best Dutch  
 Pancakes • Pizza • Eggs • Daily Fresh  
 Soup • Saté • Sandwiches • Espresso

**TAKE AWAY POSSIBLE!**

Linda's Pancakes & Pizza's  
 Palm Beach #6-D  
 (next to Valero Gas Station)

**OPEN:**

Monday - Saturday  
 08.00AM - 10:00PM

Sunday  
 Closed

**TEL: (297) 586-3378**



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# 6 CARS IN JUST 2 MONTHS!



**MARIA  
HELDER-  
WERLEMAN**  
January 1st, 2009



Mystery Bonus Jackpot:  
**SUZUKI SWIFT**

casino:  
**SEAPORT CASINO**



**JACINTHA  
KOCK  
LOEFSTOK**  
January 11th, 2009



Mystery Bonus Jackpot:  
**FORD MUSTANG**

casino:  
**CRYSTAL CASINO**



**ALLA  
FISHBEYN**  
January 15th, 2009



Mystery Bonus Jackpot:  
**FORD MUSTANG**

casino:  
**CRYSTAL CASINO**



**PREMEHANDERPERSAD  
NAIDJNATH  
MISIER**  
February 21st, 2009



Mystery Bonus Jackpot:  
**SUZUKI SWIFT**

casino:  
**SEAPORT CASINO**



**LORENZO  
PADULLA**  
February 21st, 2009



Mystery Bonus Jackpot:  
**FORD MUSTANG**

casino:  
**CRYSTAL CASINO**



**MAREK T.  
ZAWADZKI**  
February 22st, 2009



Mystery Bonus Jackpot:  
**SUZUKI SWIFT**

casino:  
**SEAPORT CASINO**

ONLY POSSIBLE AT  
**CRYSTAL & SEAPORT CASINOS!**



# Marie & Sam Paulicelli honored at the Aruban Resort



EAGLE BEACH - Recently at the Aruban Resort, Aruba vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title.

The recent honoring was effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Aruban Resort which they call their home away from home. Marie & Sam Paulicelli were honored as an Distinguished visitor for the Island of Aruba after coming to the Island for 12 years. Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes together with Marie & Sam and also Jennifer from the Aruban Resort.

## Guest wins \$2,500.00 at the Excelsior Casino



Everyone is a winner at the Excelsior Casino. The Excelsior Casino is located in the Holiday Inn Resort, a 600 room facility. The Casino has been in existence for 30 years; 50% of our guests come from the United States, 30% from South America and the balance from Europe. The beautiful Excelsior Casino will satisfy your taste for games of chance. One of Aruba's finest casinos, the Excelsior Casino features Las Vegas style gambling of all games of chance as well as a beautiful sports betting area and poker room. The Excelsior Casino is the only casino in Aruba to offer 3-4-5 times odds on Craps and Double Deck Blackjack. Spanish 21 and Blackjack can be delt out of a shoe at your request. And, most of all, the Excelsior Casino does not hit the soft 17. The Excelsior Casino features the largest Poker Room with limits as low as \$2-\$4 to \$50-\$100 no limit. No need to carry coins to the cashier! The Excelsior Casino's state of the art slot machines are totally Ticket-In, Ticket-Out.

**INVENTORY MEGA SALE**  
**Sold=Sold OPEN :ONLY 9am-1pm**  
**ANTIQUESHOP ROCOCO PLAZA**  
**40 Percent Discount on all chairs**  
**30% on Furniture and Decorations**  
 Tanki Leendert 158- G Road 4A ph. 741-5640  
 20 Showrooms with furniture and decorations +

## The biggest Race & Sports Book on the Island!

**State of the art Mega SCREEN !**

- Comfortable & Spacious Seating
- More Bet Variety
- Island's Highest Limit Take and Payoff
- Free Racing Forms
- Up to 9 different Horse and Greyhound Track daily including: Thoroughbred Quarterhorse and Harness Racing
- NFL • NCAA • NBA • NHL
- Golf • Boxing & much more...

**PLUS... The Newest Sports Bar in Seaport Casino NOW OPEN!**

The only Sports Bar on the island where you can drink, watch & place bets at the same time!

# RACE & SPORTS BOOK

at Seaport Casino & Express at Crystal Casino

Phone: 523-6408 or 523-6451 - Windows opens at 11:00 a.m.

**"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"**



*Het Binnenhuys opens new art exhibit*

# Local American artist Marty Relan exhibits "Cosas del Mar"



By Jan Falcone

Special to Aruba Today

ORANJESTAD - Artist Marty Relan has opened her solo exhibition, "Cosas del Mar", at Het Binnenhuys, Aruba's only interior design store on the island. Internationally acclaimed interior designer, Karin Martens, owner of Het Binnenhuys, loves to work and participate in the local art scene and in this way supports and stimulates the local artists.

One of the great things of living on a tropical island like Aruba, is that the true magical Caribbean is everywhere. In small details you'll find the inspiration that for so many non natives is mesmerizing and forever a world in itself. Any day the sight of a tropical

bird feeding off the cacti blossom or a colorful fish shooting away in the emerald blue waters reminds us of the beautiful paradise that we can call home. Especially the ever-changing spectacular views of the Caribbean Sea give us that perfect tropical feeling of complete and utter relaxation. Marty's art is minimalistic yet spectacular and exotic in small details such as a shell half buried in the sand, which remind us of the perfectly simple life.

As Marty, an American artist who relocated to Aruba puts it, when describing her newest exhibition:

"I have always had a love of the sea and all the things in it. I call my paintings "Cosas del Mar", (Things of the sea),

because that is the inspiration for my paintings. I prefer to pare my subjects down to their simplicity and not confuse the eye with a lot of background and surroundings. There is such amazing beauty in the geometry of a seashell that it needs nothing else around it to make it more beautiful. When painting fish and other sea creatures, I have been adding a little bit more of the sea around them, but I still prefer to let their own beauty do the speaking for themselves. Color and geometry are what it is all about"

Not just anyone who picked up a brush, employed as an interior designer in the U.S., until 2008, this great artist is famous for her unique sense of style. Her resume includes a background of interior designing and home decorating as well as formal art education in Chicago.

Now she is proudly presenting her art at "Het Binnenhuys", which outside of being THE interior decorating store on Aruba, is also an Art Gallery. It also carried paintings, objects, statues and jewelry, besides specializing amongst

other themes in the island living style, what the owner, Karin likes to call the "Long Island Feel".

Be sure to visit Het Binnenhuys Tuesdays through Saturdays between 10 and 5. It is located just after the Venete Cucine

kitchen store on Avenida Milio Croes, in Dakota in Oranjestad. They can be reached by phone at: 582-3374 or by e-mail at: [hetbinnenhuysaruba@gmail.com](mailto:hetbinnenhuysaruba@gmail.com). Marty's exhibit will be open until the end of March. Don't miss it! □







**Free Ticket for Morgan's Island Aqua Park**

## NOBUSHI: For the best Sushi on the island!



PASEO HERENCIA - Nobushi brings to Aruba the finest sushi. At Nobushi, every single piece gets the love and attention it needs from the professional Sushi chefs. Nobushi Sushi Bar & Asian Cuisine features a variety of sashimi, sushi rolls, chicken, fish and meat entrees that will enlighten your senses.

**Call: 586-2211 or ask your concierge.**

**At the Paseo Herencia Mall accross from the Holiday Inn**



## JOLLY Pirates

**SAIL, SNORKEL, SWIM & SWING!**

**DAILY 9:30-2pm \$55pp**  
Visit 3 Great sites with BBQ, Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!

**AFTERNOON SNORKEL**

**DAILY 3-6pm only \$33pp**  
Shorter version of am cruise  
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**SUNSET SAIL**

**Mon & Fri 5-7pm only \$27pp**  
Open Bar included

**Call 586 8107 or 592 7858**



Valid only with direct tel. reservation - cannot be combined with other offers. Save \$10 per coupon/per couple for morning cruises. Save \$5 per coupon/per couple for afternoon cruises.

*As good as it gets*

## Exquisite Seafood & Cocktails tonight at Moby Dick's

PASEO HERENCIA – Moby Dick's has one mission; to take you to the depths of the blue ocean to taste some of the most exquisite dishes to come from the deep. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is, and what a unique interior to match. The inside is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which runs along the complete wall. The menu promises to be a true seafood lovers dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste.

Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive menu



for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!

**For More information and Reservations Call: 586 8333**



*Beachside Dining in that 'just right' atmosphere*

## Matthew's gets it right



EAGLE BEACH – Located at Casa del Mar resort in Eagle Beach, Matthew's is the brain child of Stefan Legger, who owned and operatead Rumba Bar & Grill for 6 years. Matthew's redefines the concept of a beachside restaurant, delivering an exquisite blend of fine dining and comfort food with that 'sand on your toes' feeling. The staff is extremely friendly and demonstrate very clearly that they are there for one thing; you. Also being a very wanted venue for events and weddings, it very advisable to call and make a res-

ervation, but if you want to just give it a go, no problem. Matthew's has a great bar which will keep you abreast of all the action, whether it's sports on one of their 3 TV's, or what cocktails the bartenders can whip up for you. Besides breakfast, lunch and dinner, Matthew's offers all you can eat spare-ribs on Tuesdays, Champagne brunch on Sundays and of course their famous daily happy hours with live music at the bar.



**Opening Hours**  
Daily from 7:30am till 10:00pm

**Daily Happy Hours**  
Noon - 1:00pm  
4:00pm - 6:00pm (with live music)  
9:00pm - 10:00pm

**For Reservations & Information call:**  
Tel: 588 7300

## The trendiest coffees on Aruba Segafredo at South Beach Centre

PALM BEACH – Recently Segafredo very quietly opened its doors in the new South Beach Mall, right across from the High Rise Hotels. They have been a raving succes from day one, not a surprise to anyone as Segafredo is one of the world's trendiest and recognized coffee brands.

Segafredo is opened from 6AM for the early starters until midnight. You'll find the Grand Opening Specials below, they are made just for you! They will serve you the best Segafredo coffees during the morning to get you going, during lunch you will find fresh panini sandwiches, pizza, lasagna and salads. Night time at Segafredo's promises special coffees, martini's, longdrinks and of course beer on one of the trendiest locations on the island. General Manager Maarten Alberts has trained his staff to utter perfection on how to make the best coffees, and it shows. Served by the most courteous staff on the island, the morning espressos and cappuchinos are put in front of you with every attention to detail. We invite you to start your day in the best way possible; at Segafredo.



**Grand Opening Specials**

**BUY ANY BREAKFAST GET ONE FREE**

**HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY 6pm - 8pm**

**BUY ANY SPECIAL COFFEE GET ONE FREE**



Located at the South Beach Mall in Palm Beach #55 | Open Daily from 6am to 10pm | Tel: 743-8897 - 586-7483



**Pago Pago**  
*Seafood & Grill Dining*

Enjoy wonderful cuisine as you dine in this unique American steakhouse with a Caribbean flair.

Two diverse culinary worlds are offered: exotic Caribbean food and cowboy-size servings of USDA-certified Black Angus Beef.

**Special offer:**  
Pay just 1/2 price for the first bottle of wine any Tuesday from 6-7:30p.m., with a three-course dinner, two persons minimum.

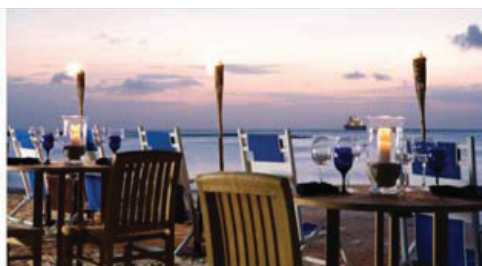


**baci ristorante**

Italian zest for living adds a unique flavor to your dinner at Baci Ristorante. "Bevenuti" to our Old Country piazza.

**Special offer:**  
Enjoy a free birthday dinner (food only, three-course dinner) with a minimum of four persons – ID required.

**THE WESTIN**  
RESORT  
ARUBA



**AZULL**

An epicurean delight located in a romantic setting on a sugary sand beach with a golden glow of a sunset as a backdrop.



**BON BINI**  
cafe

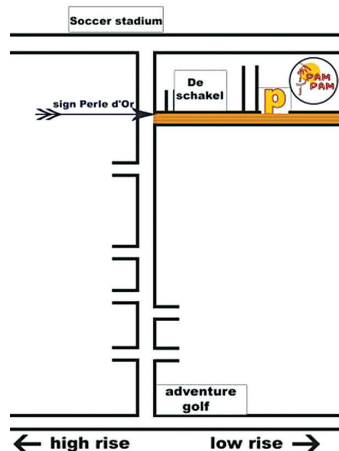
For the best breakfast buffet on the island, start your day right!

**Discover the island's premier collection of dining options**

For hours of operation and reservations please call tel 297.586.4466



# Experience authentic regional ambiance every Friday evening at Pam-Pam Café



Pam-Pam Café, located in the charming Perle D'Or Resort in Bubali, is the place to be on Friday evenings for a great taste of regional music, dance, food and hospitality, as proprietors and hosts Nico and Monique van de Borne welcome guests for their weekly "Latin Night."

Pam-Pam Café is situated in a delightful tropical setting that is the perfect backdrop for a show by 2002 World Salsa Champions Janice and Oslin Boekhoudt, who run their Pachanga Dance School

out Perle D'Or. They and their dance troupe put on a show of the exotic Zouk, originating from the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and inspiration for the Brazilian Lambada. If their sensual movements inspire any audience members, they can sign up at Pam-Pam for private dance lessons from the Pachanga crew, which also teach Salsa and Merengue.

In addition to the island music and dance, reasonably priced snacks (10.50 in Aruban florins (\$6) for an Assorted Snack Platter or Buffalo Wings among

other choices) and cocktails are available throughout the evening. From 11 PM until closing time, Pam-Pam offers a special on top shelf whiskey for only 6 Aruban

florins (\$3.50)

If you are looking for the "real deal" in Caribbean entertainment and ambiance and a chance to rub elbows with islanders, schedule Pam-Pam Café as your Friday night entertainment!

Pam Pam restaurant

First-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced, and main courses, (25) which are priced between \$13 / \$22.

Pam-Pam's house specialty is a unique method of preparation, which presently,

in Aruba, is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "Gourmet Meal." A grill and a collection of the freshest of ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat. It is suggested that reservations for this singular dining experience be made one day in advance.

When you want to see restaurants menu, visit: [www.visitaruba.com](http://www.visitaruba.com) Phone: 5877710 or 5932660

## "Aruhiba" Aruba's homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called 'Aruhiba'. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of "Aruhiba" cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo 'Aruhiba' and 'Made in Aruba'. Petrochi considers 'Aruhiba' a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch



Windmill from 9am to 8pm.

Open on Sunday.

And also at Tamarijn: open 9am - 5pm and Sunday from 9am to 1pm.

The only place to get Aruhiba and all major credit cards accepted.

We have homemade and best premium Cuban Cigars. All cigars are legal through costum.

Call 586-7833 or 593-6177.

Open for tour operators and we have a large parking space. Come and see Mr. Petrochi rolling the cigars everyday.





# Shadow Meet to Challenge Elites at Americas Summit

By Peter Richards

PORT OF SPAIN. Trinidad- The organisers do not expect newly elected U.S. President Barack Obama to attend their parallel three-day meeting, even though he is likely to be in Trinidad and Tobago at the official Fifth Summit of the Americas in April. But they are hopeful that Obama and the 33 other hemispheric leaders will be aware of their deliberations, their agenda and the needs of the "ordinary person" when they gather in Port of Spain for their Apr. 17-19 summit. "The alternative summit is one in which everyone can participate. The official summit is one that is exclusive and even those activities that are being organised and will include civil society will be limited to a certain number of people," David Abdulah told IPS. Abdulah is head of the local working committee for the Fourth People's Summit that will coincide with the official Summit of the Americas. The Apr. 16-18 People's Summit is being organised in conjunction with the Hemispheric Social Alliance (HSA) and the Assembly of Caribbean People, an amalgam of Caribbean social movements to which Abdullah's Federation of Independent Trade Union and Non-Government Organisation (FITUN) belongs. The HSA promotes itself as a forum where progressive organisations and movements from around the Americas can gather, strategise, share information and plan joint actions. "As the base and strength of this movement grows, we will be in an even better position to fight for an alternative and democratic development model for our societies," HSA says, noting that its objectives include strengthening civil society within and between countries in the Americas. At its first meeting in Costa Rica in March 1999, the HSA, whose membership includes organisations in Canada, Brazil, the United States and Latin America, identified strategies that would impact the official integration process by lobbying, making

policy proposals, influencing public opinion, developing media strategies and building a broad-based movement that includes trade unions, environmentalists, landless and homeless people, women's organisations and others. At the third People's Summit held in Argentina in 2005, delegates discussed issues ranging from education to energy, labour, gender, ecumenical and justice issues to communication and fair trade. "We want the heads of governments and state to be aware that the people of the hemisphere are also discussing issues, that we have a point of view, that we have an agenda and that they need to take [it] into consideration," Abdulah said, adding that issues such as the global financial meltdown, the environment, energy and food security would be priorities at the alternative summit. The organisers have also extended invitations to civil and social groups in countries of the Caribbean - which they describe as "one of the most colonised regions of the world" - and expect delegations to come from Puerto Rico, St. Marten, the French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe, as well as the Dutch islands of Aruba and Curacao. Abdulah said that unlike the official summit, an invitation has also been extended to Cuba to participate. Issues of governance and constitutional reform are also expected to be a major talking point at the three-day alternative summit. "As you know there has been constitutional reform in Bolivia, we would like to find out what that process has been, what process was used to approve it," he said, referring to the initiative by the present Trinidad and Tobago government to change the 1976 Republican Constitution. "We need to share what is happening in Latin America, there are some dynamics," he said, adding that Washington's relations with the Caribbean and Latin America would also be explored at in the summit. Abdulah stressed that the alternative summit should not be confused with the "official civil



society" forum being organised as part of the Fifth Summit of the Americas and which would address issues such as youth, business and civil society. He said that deliberations from that official gathering would be brought to the attention of the hemispheric leaders during their meeting here. "We don't have that direct connection because we are the alternative summit, but we do have ways and means of getting our views, declarations and agenda known to the governments," he said. "When we gather, we speak collectively with a loud voice and I am sure that the heads of government and heads of state will take that into consideration." The alternative summit is well known to some of the hemispheric leaders, such as Bolivian President Evo Morales, who participated in similar events in Canada and Chile. Abdulah also credits the alternative summit for educating ordinary people about "the negative impacts" of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) leading to "governments themselves having grave concerns about the FTAA." He said the summit allowed for major campaigns around the ownership of natural resources, against military bases in Latin America, strengthening the rights of indigenous peoples as well as providing an environment where ordinary people could establish networks and links that they would most probably never have had an opportunity to do. "It gives us an opportunity to begin to shape our own future, our own agenda for the well-being and welfare of people going forward," Abdulah said, adding that he believed the alternative summit here "will be a very exciting affair." □

## Aruba gets ready for 2009 Impact Player Caribbean Baseball

ORANJESTAD - Impact Player Baseball Academy ([www.impact-player.com](http://www.impact-player.com)) is an International Baseball Program that teaches boys the fundamentals of the game of baseball in anticipation of high school play, college scholarships, and maybe even the opportunity to play professional baseball. Through their academies in Tampa, Florida and Maracaibo, Venezuela, Impact Player currently has over 20 players at various levels of professional baseball, including two young men currently playing in the Major Leagues: Alberto Gonzalez - Shortstop with the Washington Nationals, and Carlos Gonzalez - Outfielder with the Colorado Rockies.

Part of the Impact Player program is to hold an annual international baseball tournament showcasing high quality competitive teams in the 15 and under age group. The inaugural event was held in 2008 in Maracaibo, and the 2009 Impact Player Caribbean Baseball Tournament is scheduled for the week of July 12<sup>th</sup> in Aruba. Eight teams from the U.S., Aruba, Venezuela, Curacao, and the Dominican Republic are scheduled to participate in this year's event, which will feature a four games daily starting on Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, leading up to the semi-finals and finals on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. In addition, a free baseball clinic will be held during the week for local youth, and Impact Player staff will also offer an open tryout for promising local talent. Locally, Impact Player is working with Mr. Benjamin Francees, President of the Giants Baseball Organization Aruba, Treasurer of Aruba Center Little League, and owner of Benjamin Security Services. We are seeking local business participation and sponsorship to help defray the costs of the event, as well as to provide travel and accommodations assistance for players traveling to Aruba for the week. Any supplemental sponsorship money will be donated to the local Little League. Sponsors will be prominently identified and recognized in all promotional materials, as well as during the event itself. We anticipate that the players, coaches, and their families, will be spending a minimum of one week on the Island, which will be a significant boost to the local economy. It is our intention to make this worthwhile tournament an annual event in Aruba to promote baseball throughout the Caribbean.

For more information on the event or sponsorship, please contact Michael Hodges in Tampa at +1-813-317-3170 or [absmail1@verizon.net](mailto:absmail1@verizon.net), or Benjamin Francees at 594-0536 or [bssaruba@yahoo.com](mailto:bssaruba@yahoo.com). □

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## 'Plow' producers plan to file for arbitration



In this Sept. 4, 2008 file photo, actor Jeremy Piven attends a screening of the film 'RocknRolla' during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto.

(AP Photo/Evan Agostini, file)

By MICHAEL KUCHWARA,  
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK — Jeremy Piven is not off the hook yet.

The producers of "Speed-the-Plow" said Friday they will file for arbitration to settle their dispute with the actor for abruptly quitting the Broadway show after his doctor said he was suffering from mercury poisoning.

The action came after no agreement was reached Thursday in a grievance hearing requested by the producers. A panel composed of Actors' Equity and Broadway League representatives were unable to reach a required unanimous decision.

In a terse, two-sentence

statement, the producers said: "The grievance went as expected yesterday. The grievance committee (made up of League and Equity representatives) did not rule for either side and we will be filing for arbitration as provided by our contract."

No date was given for the filing by lead producer Jeffrey Richards.

Samantha Mast, Piven's spokeswoman, said: "We're not aware the producers have filed anything to initiate an arbitration, but if they do so, we are confident that the producers will not prevail in arbitration, just as they did not prevail in the grievance proceeding they initiated."

Under Actors' Equity rules, the arbitration will be heard by a professional arbitrator, acceptable to both Equity and the League. He or she will be chosen from a list of nine designated people, who will hold the hearing within 30 days of the filing and issue a decision within 30 days of that meeting.

The 43-year-old Piven, the

Emmy- and Golden Globe-winning star of HBO's "Entourage," departed the production of David Mamet's satiric comedy after his physician said he had high levels of mercury in his body. In a tearful interview with The New York Times after Thursday's hearing, Piven said his illness stemmed from eating fish twice a week for 20 years, not from consuming too much sushi, as some reports suggested.

"Speed-the-Plow" opened last October to favorable reviews and by the time the revival ended its limited engagement Feb. 22 at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre, it had recouped its \$2.26 million production costs.

Three different actors — understudy Jordan Lage, Norbert Leo Butz and William H. Macy — followed Piven in the role of movie mogul Bobby Gould. Mamet's three-character play about Hollywood glamour, sex and power, also starred Elisabeth Moss of AMC's "Mad Men" and Raul Esparza. □

## Ed McMahon in Intensive Care



Ed McMahon, former sidekick to Johnny Carson on "Tonight" and a familiar TV commercial pitchman, was hospitalized in intensive care at a Los Angeles hospital, a spokesman said Friday. McMahon, 85, was suffering from pneumonia and other ailments and had been in the hospital for several weeks, spokesman Howard Bragman said. He declined to identify the Los Angeles facility or the other illnesses.

"It's serious," Bragman said when asked about McMahon's condition, noting his age. But, Bragman added: "We're hopeful." □

McMahon's wife and family are with him and appreciate the public expressions of concern, the spokesman said. McMahon had broken his neck in a fall in 2007. He faced foreclosure on his home last year because he said the injury left him unable to work, but a deal was announced last December that would allow him to stay in the house. McMahon was Carson's announcer and second banana on "Tonight" from 1962 until Carson's retirement in 1992, introducing him with a resounding "H-e-e-e-e-ere's Johnny!" and bolstering the host with hearty laughs. (Carson died in 2005.)

McMahon also appeared in commercials for American Family Publishers' sweepstakes and had supporting roles in movies including "Fun with Dick and Jane" (1977) and "Just Write" (1997) and in TV shows including the 1997 WB sitcom "The Tom Show" with Tom □

## Jennifer Hudson: Performing is 'like therapy'

In Feb. 12, 2009 file photo, actress and singer Jennifer Hudson poses backstage at the 40th NAACP Image Awards in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Dan Steinberg, file)



By CARLA K. JOHNSON,  
Associated Press Writer  
CHICAGO — Jennifer Hudson says she's found getting back to work to be a healing force in her life.

"I'm just glad to be back and be back to work again. Just doing what I love to do is like therapy," Hudson said on a live episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" broadcast Friday. "I'm in a very good place."

In a brief interview, the Oscar- and Grammy-winning performer made no direct reference to the October slayings in Chicago of her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew.

She performed her latest single, "If This Isn't Love," and promoted an upcoming tour with Robin Thicke, beginning March 31.

Hudson said Whitney Houston awarding her the Grammy for best R&B album for her self-titled debut CD "almost surpassed winning."

"As soon as she stepped out on the stage, I lost it. That's when I got emotional," Hudson said of Houston. Hudson said she used to create duets with Houston's records and dream about winning a Grammy.

Hudson, 27, said her fiancé, David Otunga, is "working and making plans for us," and she showed a snapshot of her three dogs, named Oscar, Grammy and Dreamgirl. The former "American Idol" finalist's Oscar came for her role in the movie "Dreamgirls." □

Was she nervous about singing the national anthem at the Super Bowl? Not Hudson, who said there "was too much going on for me to take it in" or to get nervous about her first public performance after the slayings.

Even the difficult final phrases of the national anthem didn't throw her.

"To me, the biggest notes and the longest notes are the easiest notes," she said. "It's just like I'm glad that I made it to the end of the song. That's how I am. OK, I got this now, I'm home. I'm going home now."

William Balfour, the estranged husband of Hudson's sister Julia, is accused in the triple homicide of Hudson's relatives. Balfour has pleaded not guilty.

The bodies of Hudson's mother, Darnell Donerson, and brother, Jason Hudson, were discovered Oct. 24 at their South Side home. Seven-year-old Julian King's body was found days later. All three had been shot to death. □

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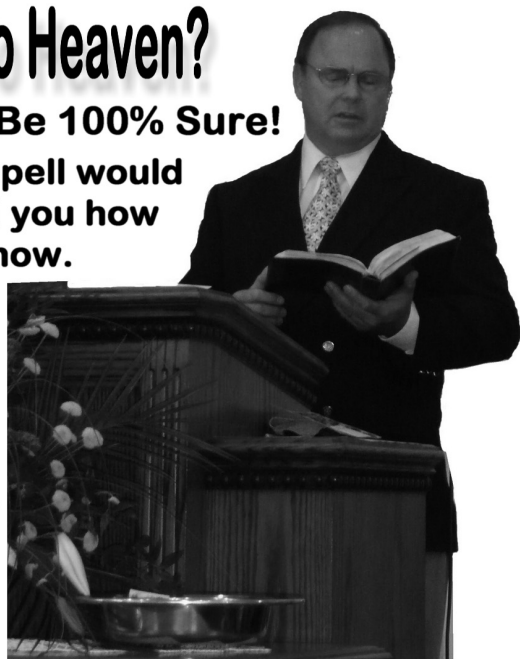


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# BUSINESS

## Aruba TODAY

### Wall Street slides after Citigroup-government deal

By TIM PARADIS,  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Wall Street ended another unforgiving month with a steep loss — one that left the Dow Jones industrial average at less than half its record high.

The day's news unsettled investors. Citigroup Inc. agreed to turn over a big piece of itself to the government, a move that fanned worries that other banks would face crippling trouble with bad debt. General Electric Co. slashed its quarterly dividend by 68 percent. Both companies are part of the Dow Jones industrial average, which fell 119 points.

And the government's gross domestic product report showed that the economy fell at a 6.2 percent annual pace at the end of last year, a much faster than expected pace.

For investors, it all added up to a prolonged and increasingly painful recession.

"I don't think there is the confidence that the recovery is going to happen very quickly. It's going to take time," said Scott Fullman, director of derivatives investment strategy for WJB Capital Group in New York.

Some analysts said the market's slide could have been worse — the major indexes finished well above their lows.

Dan Cook, senior market analyst at IG Markets in Chicago, said Wall Street's ability to show some recovery Friday despite the onslaught of bad news is a good sign.

"We have become somewhat callous to these news announcements," he said.

Nonetheless, the market's stats once again showed how troubled Wall Street and the economy are:

- The Dow, at its lowest close since May 1, 1997, is now down 50.1 percent from its record high of 14,164.53

reached in October 2007. It came within 34 points of 7,000, a level it hasn't fallen below since October 1997.

- The Standard & Poor's 500 index breached its Nov. 21 trading low of 741.02, which came during the height of the credit crisis. Friday's finish was the lowest for the index since Dec. 18, 1996.

- The Dow's 11.7 percent loss in February was its worst since 1933, when it fell 15.6 percent, and its sixth straight monthly drop. The half-year slide totals 38.8 percent, the worst since 1932, when it fell 45 percent.

The S&P 500 index fell 11 percent for the month. It was the second-worst February for the index, topped only by an 18.4 percent slide in 1933. It was the index's fifth monthly drop in six months; it managed a slender gain of 0.8 percent in December.

- The Dow Jones Wilshire 5000 index, which reflects nearly all stocks traded in America, lost 10.3 percent for the month, its worst slump since October. That's a paper loss of \$1 trillion. Since its October 2007 peak, the Wilshire 5000 is down 52.7 percent, or \$10.4 trillion.

The losses in the final session of the month came as Wall Street had been hoping that stabilizing Citigroup would help ease worries about the beaten-down bank stocks and remove some of their questions about the prospects for the industry.

But analysts said the loss to regular shareholders from the government's move touched off worries that other banks could see their shares hit as well.

Citigroup said before the opening bell that it agreed to a deal in which the U.S. government and private investors including the government of Singapore and Saudi Arabian Prince

Alwaleed Bin Talal will convert their preferred stock in the struggling bank to common shares. The plan won't require additional money from the U.S. government, which holds an 8 percent stake in Citigroup and would own 36 percent.

"Citi has been a leading indicator the whole way down and the dilution that shareholders took today is sort of a leading indicator of what could happen to other banks, particularly the weak ones," said Kevin Shacknoffsky, co-portfolio manager of the Alpine Dynamic Dividend Fund in Purchase, N.Y.

Some sort of deal with the government had been expected much of the week. But Citi fell 96 cents, or 39 percent, to \$1.50 as investors worried about how much their holdings in the company would be diluted by the changes.

GE, meanwhile, said late in the session it would cut its dividend to save \$9 billion a year. The conglomerate has a big financing arm, so it often trades like a bank stock. Its shares fell 59 cents, or 6.5 percent, to \$8.51.

The Dow fell 119.15, or 1.7 percent, to 7,062.93. The S&P 500 index fell 17.74, or 2.4 percent, to 735.09, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 13.63, or 1 percent, to 1,377.84.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 3.93, or 1 percent, to 389.02.

Two stocks fell for every one that advanced on the New York Stock Exchange. Consolidated volume came to a heavy 8.44 billion shares, up from Thursday's 6.48 billion. Wall Street was also shaken when the government's gross domestic product report showed that the economy fell at a 6.2 percent annual pace at the end of last year, a much faster than expected pace.

The Commerce Department figures on GDP, the worst



Specialist Glenn Carell, left, works his post on the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange Friday, Feb. 27, 2009

(AP Photo/David Karp)

since an annualized drop of 6.4 percent in the first three months of 1982, cast some doubt that the economy will begin to show signs of improvement by the end of this year, as many analysts

have predicted. But the poor showing also could make it that much easier for readings in coming quarters to look by comparison, Cook said. Investors would welcome even a slowing pace of decline. □

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## Hillary vs. The Israel Lobby

The Nation -- In her 2000 race for the US Senate, Hillary Clinton was loudly denounced by uncritical right-wing supporters of Israel for a 1999 trip to Ramallah, where she kissed Palestinian First Lady Suha Arafat and listened as Arafat denounced Israel (in Arabic). Pictures of "the kiss" were repeatedly slapped across the cover of the New York Post, in TV ads and invoked by the campaigns of Rudy Giuliani and Rick Lazio. The flap almost derailed Clinton's campaign.

Clinton learned her lesson and for nearly a decade afterward offered only boilerplate praise of Israel, which made her a favorite of the right-leaning Israel Lobby.

Now, as Secretary of State, she's forced to confront another reality: the difficulty of forging peace between Israel and the Palestinians. Anything she says that might be perceived as even slightly critical of Israel will land her in hot water with right-wingers back home. Just ask Chas Freeman, who Barack Obama appointed to head the National Intelligence Council despite fierce opposition from war-hungry neoconservatives.

In advance of her trip to the Holy Land next week, Clinton advisers sent word that the US was unhappy with Israel for blocking humanitarian aid to Gaza, which was further devastated by Israel's recent military incursion.

According to Haaretz:

"Israel is not making enough effort to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza," senior US officials told Israeli counterparts last week, and reiterated Washington's view by saying that "the U.S. expects Israel to meet its commitments on this matter."

It didn't take long for so-called "pro-Israel" leaders back home to howl with protest. "I am very surprised, frankly, at this statement from the United States government and from the secretary of state," said New York Daily News publisher Mort Zuckerman. "I liked her a lot more as a senator from New York," added Brooklyn assemblyman Dov Hikind.

Since when did starving the people of Gaza become good for Israel? Before we can solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict we have to be able to have a rational conversation about it. The Zuckermans and Hikinds of the world make that nearly impossible. They're doing neither Israel nor the United States any favors.

Politically, Clinton knows that the only safe words to say in US politics are "I support Israel," no if ands or buts. Israel is the victim and the righteous warrior. Palestinians are terrorists who can't be trusted to negotiate. Hamas must be eliminated. Iran must be obliterated. End of story.

Unfortunately, such insane demagoguery doesn't come in very handy when it comes to the actual practice of diplomacy. So Clinton, rightly, is trying to make sure that Israel doesn't turn Gaza into an even bleaker post-apocalyptic wasteland. Kudos to her for trying and lets hope there's more tough love to come. □



## Obama's New Commerce Secretary Nominee: Not So "Squeaky Clean"

Michelle Malkin

Creators Syndicate -- Liberal media outlets are doing their best to boost former Washington Gov. Gary Locke, President Obama's third pick for the beleaguered Commerce Secretary job. "Obama's New Commerce Pick Has Clean Reputation," declared National Public Radio's Tom Banse. The Democrat possesses "a largely scandal-free resume" reported The New York Times. He is a "safe choice," the Washington Post asserted, because of his "strait-laced reputation." But repeating the Mr. Clean claim doesn't make it so.

Those in his home state who know Locke best paint a far grimmer picture of a crony politician with a serial habit of skirting campaign finance laws and conflict-of-interest rules. In other words: Locke's "Do As I Say, Not as I Do" record makes him a good fit for the ethically impaired Obama administration. The left-leaning Seattle Weekly newspaper notes that Locke presided over a \$3.2 billion tax break for Boeing while "never disclosing he paid \$715,000 to — and relied on the advice of — Boeing's own private consultant and outside auditor." Then there's the tainted matter of Locke's "favors for his brother-in-law (who lived in the governor's mansion), including a tax break for his relative's company, personal intervention in a company dispute, and Locke's signature on a federal loan application for the company." Locke's laces ain't so straight. The glowing profiles of Locke

have largely glossed over his troubling ties to the Clinton-era Chinagate scandal. As the nation's first Chinese-American governor, Locke aggressively raised cash from ethnic constituencies around the country. Convicted campaign finance money-launderer John Huang helped grease the wheels and open doors. In the same time period that Huang was drumming up illegal cash for Clinton-Gore at the federal level, he also organized two 1996 galas for Locke in Washington, D.C. (where Locke hobnobbed with Clinton and other Chinagate principals); three fundraisers in Los Angeles; and an extravaganza at the Universal City, Calif., Hilton in October 1996 that raised upward of \$30,000. Huang also made personal contributions to Locke — as did another Clinton-Gore funny-money figure, Indonesian business mogul Ted Sioeng and his family and political operatives. Sioeng, whom Justice Department and intelligence officials suspected of acting on behalf of the Chinese government, illegally donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to both Democratic and Republican coffers. Bank records from congressional investigators indicated that one Sioeng associate's maximum individual contribution to Locke was illegally reimbursed by the businessman's daughter. Checks to Locke's campaign poured in from prominent Huang and Sioeng associates, many of whom were targets of federal investigations, including: Hoyt Zia, a Commerce Department counsel, who stated in a sworn

deposition that Huang had access to virtually any classified document through him; Melinda Yee, another Clinton Commerce Department official who admitted to destroying Freedom of Information Act-protected notes on a China trade mission involving Huang's former employer, the Indonesia-based Lippo Group; Praitun Kanchanalak, mother of convicted Thai influence-peddler Pauline Kanchanalak; Kent La, exclusive distributor of Sioeng's Chinese cigarettes in the United States; and Sioeng's wife and son-in-law. Locke eventually returned a token amount of money from Huang and Kanchanalak, but not before bitterly playing the race card and accusing critics of his sloppy accounting and questionable schmoozing of stirring up anti-Asian-American sentiment. "It will make our efforts doubly hard to get Asian Americans appointed to top-level positions across the United States," Locke complained. "If they have any connection to John Huang, those individuals will face greater scrutiny and their lives will be completely opened up and examined — perhaps more than usual." That scrutiny (such as it was) was more than justified. On top of his Chinagate entanglements, Locke's political committee was fined the maximum amount by Washington's campaign finance watchdog for failing to disclose out-of-state New York City Chinatown donors. One of those events was held at NYC's Harmony Palace restaurant, co-owned by Chinese street gang thugs. □



At the Crystal Theater

# "Havana Dance," is the hottest Cuban show on the island



ORANJESTAD - The elegant Crystal Theater sparkles with all the excitement of Las Vegas as the magnificent "Havana Dance" explodes on stage with a thrilling mix of Latin & Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy, contemporary Cuban

dance. "Havana Dance" is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean, featuring Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana. The show delivers a purely Cuban spectacle, with a cast of 12 female ballerinas, 4 male dancers, 2 singers and 3 acrobats, performing a fresh program accompanied by live Cuban music performed on stage by a genuine Cuban orchestra, consisting of 5 professional Cuban musicians. This live dance AND live music combination as seen in our pictures, is 'first of its kind' on the island. While the greater part of the "Havana Dance" review enjoys predominantly Cuban flavor, the show is graced with a truly unique Caribbean choreography, and many tropical touches. "Havana Dance" unfolds on a two-tiered stage, with entrances and exits to and off the arena at different heights, which presents a



new visual concept. The custom-designed costumes are sensual, daring, colorful, and luxurious and set "Havana Dance" apart from any other cabaret. Producer Steve Hudson who enjoyed an unprecedentedly-successful seven-year run with his previous "Let's Go Latin" review, conceived and created an exciting and much-evolved new must-see spectacle. Tickets for "Havana Dance" are US\$ 49.- Children under 12 pay US\$25.- Tickets are available at the theater box office, Renaissance Aruba Resort, and can also be purchased

at the concierge's desk at the Renaissance Aruba Resort. Other ticket vendors include the De Palm Tours and Pelican Adventure Activity Centers at the resorts. A special dinner & show package is also available in conjunction with the L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House for US\$89.- per person. For additional information and reservations call the Crystal Theatre at Tel.: 583 6000, ext. 6115, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357. Don't miss an opportunity to be greatly entertained by the sizzle of "Havana Dance." □

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conscience and add a salad or go all out and try their delicious crab cakes, fish soup, garlic escargots, lobster crepe and coconut shrimps before your hearty entrée.



While seafood stars at Driftwood, fish-phobic diners will not go hungry. They have a staggeringly vast menu, which doesn't miss much of anything, from authentic Aruban seafood, lobster, Alaskan king crab legs to chicken, lamb or steaks.

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and mussels, sauteed in olive oil with fresh garlic, served on a bed of linguini noodles.

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President Barack Obama is saluted by a Marine before boarding Air Force One at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, N.C., Friday, Feb. 27, 2009. At rear is Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

Associated Press

## Obama sets firm withdrawal timetable for troops in Iraq

CAMP LEJEUNE, North Carolina (AP) — President Barack Obama consigned the Iraq war to history, declaring he will end combat operations within 18 months and open a new era of diplomacy in the Middle East. Even so, Obama will leave the bulk of troops in

place this year, contrary to hopes of Democratic leaders for a speedier pullout. And after combat forces withdraw, 35,000 to 50,000 will stay behind for an additional year and half of support and counterterrorism duties.

*Continued on Next Page*

## National Guard is pulling out of New Orleans



Louisiana National Guard Lt. Ronald Brown, Jr., center, and Sgt. Wayne Lewis talk with a New Orleans police officer after arriving at a domestic dispute call in the 9th Ward of New Orleans, Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009. The Last members of the Louisiana National Guard, which came to town after Hurricane Katrina in August of 2005, are pulling out Sunday March 1, 2009.

Associated Press

By MARY FOSTER  
Associated Press Writer  
NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Three and a half years after Hurricane Katrina, the National Guard is pulling the last of its troops out of New Orleans this weekend, leaving

behind a city still desperate and dangerous. Residents long distrustful of the city's police force are worried they will have to fend for themselves.

*Continued on Page B5*

## Court: Man owns 1776 copy of Declaration

By MICHAEL FELBERBAUM

Associated Press Writer

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP) — A rare 1776 copy of the Declaration of Independence belongs to a technology entrepreneur from Virginia, not to the state of Maine, the Virginia Supreme Court ruled Friday.

Richard Adams Jr. purchased the document from a London book dealer in 2001 for \$475,000. But the state of Maine claimed it belongs to the town of Wiscasset, where it was kept by the town clerk in 1776.

Virginia's high court said that a lower court did not err in its ruling in Adams' favor because Maine didn't prove the document was ever an official town record and Adams is the rightful owner.

Adams' attorney, Robert K. Richardson, has argued that Wiscasset's town clerk copied the text of the Declaration of Independence into the town's record books on Nov. 10, 1776. It's that transcription, not the document upon which it was based, that is the official town record, Richardson said.

Adams, who gained fame when he founded UUNET Technologies Inc., the first commercial Internet service provider, sued to establish title to the document after learning that Maine was trying to get it back.

Maine Assistant Attorney General Thomas Knowlton

argued that Wiscasset never gave up ownership of the document, which is one of about 250 copies printed in 1776 and distributed to towns throughout Massachusetts to be read to residents. Maine was part of Massachusetts at the time.

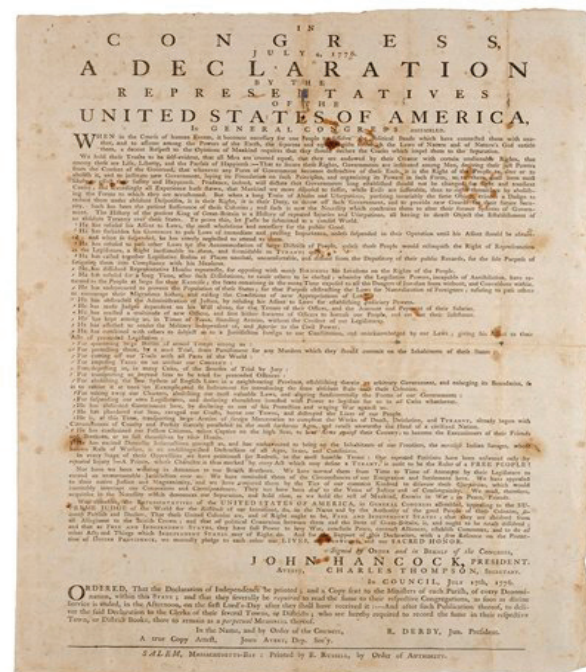
Maine state archivist David Cheever said he found it "incredible" that the state's rights were trumped by a private collector. Maine contended the document never should have been sold because of a state law which presumes that public documents remain public property unless ownership is expressly relinquished by the government.

Knowlton said the state strongly disagrees with the decision, but acknowledged that it is the end of the road. There are no federal issues that could be pursued to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"The unfortunate result is a public record that we believe rightfully belongs to the people of Maine is now in the hands of a private collector in Virginia," Knowlton said.

Richardson said Friday evening that he and Adams are pleased with the decision.

Cheever said only 11 of the approximately 250 copies printed by Ezekiel Russell in Salem, Massachusetts, are known to still exist. One that originally belonged to the town of North Yarmouth also was obtained by a private collector but eventually was returned, Cheever said. □



In this undated file photo and provided by the Archives of the State of Maine shows a copy of the Declaration of Independence. This rare 1776 copy of the Declaration of Independence belongs to a Virginia technology entrepreneur, not the state of Maine, the Virginia Supreme Court ruled Friday Feb. 27, 2009. Richard Adams Jr. of Fairfax County purchased the document from a London book dealer in 2001 for \$475,000. But the state of Maine claimed it belongs to the town of Wiscasset, where it was kept by the town clerk in 1776.

Associated Press



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Marines wait patiently for the arrival of President Barack Obama at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Friday, Feb. 27, 2009.

Associated Press

## WITHDRAWAL TIMETABLE

*Continued from Page B1*

Just six weeks into office, Obama used blunt terms and a cast-in-stone promise to write the last chapter of a war that began six years ago. It has cost more in lives, money and national stamina than ever envisioned.

“Let me say this as plainly as I can: By August 31, 2010, our combat mission in Iraq will end,” Obama said Friday to Marines who are about to deploy by the thousands to America’s other war front, Afghanistan.

Like Presidents Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon before him, Obama came into office with an inherited war he pledged to end without delay. Eisenhower did, in Korea. Nixon didn’t, in Vietnam. Obama says he will.

“Iraq’s future is now its own responsibility,” Obama said.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, flanked Obama during the announcement. It was a symbolic statement that top military advisers are on board with a strategy some had openly questioned before Obama’s inauguration.

In Congress, Democratic leaders remained cool to the suggestion that tens of thousands of troops would remain.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, said his announcement was good news because it meant an end to the war, but she cautioned that the troops left behind must have a “clearly defined” mission. Obama succeeded in winning over most Republicans, who initially dismissed the timeline as arbitrary.

Republican Sen. John McCain, who lost the presidency to Obama, said he supported the

plan.

“Let us have no crisis of confidence now,” he told his colleagues on the Senate floor Friday. “Instead, let us welcome home our fighting men and women — not just thanking them for serving in Iraq, but congratulating them on bringing us to victory there.”

More than five years have passed since Bush declared the end of major combat operations in Iraq, a statement that proved false as sectarian violence brought Iraq to the brink of disaster.

Obama did not claim a mission accomplished. Instead, he suggested America accomplished the mission as best it could.

“What we will not do is let the pursuit of the perfect stand in the way of achievable goals,” he said. “We cannot rid Iraq of all who oppose America or sympathize with our

adversaries. We cannot police Iraq’s streets until they are completely safe, nor stay until Iraq’s union is perfected.”

He said: “America’s men and women in uniform have fought block by block, province by province, year after year, to give the Iraqis this chance to choose a better future. Now, we must ask the Iraqi people to seize it.”

Obama’s promise to pull home the last of the U.S. troops by the end of 2011 is in accord with a deal that Iraqis signed with former President George W. Bush.

Meantime, Obama is accelerating the end of the war by withdrawing roughly 100,000 troops by the summer of 2010.

Obama was moving to fulfill in large measure the defining promise of his campaign — to end combat operations within 16 months of taking office. He’s doing it in 19 months instead.

More than 4,250 Americans have been killed in Iraq, a costly, unpopular enterprise at home that Obama criticized when support for the invasion was strong and few other politicians dared stand against it. Total Iraqi deaths are unknown but number in the tens of thousands and are perhaps above 100,000.

Obama applauded the armed forces for its successes in Iraq, where U.S. deaths and violence in many parts of the country are significantly down.

He never credited Bush’s buildup of troops in 2007 as contributing to those improvements.

To the military members, Obama said: “We will leave the Iraqi people with a hard-

earned opportunity to live a better life. That is your achievement. That is the prospect that you have made possible.” The president also told the Iraqi people they will not be forgotten.

“Our nations have known difficult times together,” he said. “But ours is a bond forged by shared bloodshed, and countless friendships among our people.”

Yet he acknowledged violence will remain “a part of life” and daunting problems include political instability, displaced citizens and the stress of declining oil revenues.

Obama said U.S. must end the war, both for the future of Iraq and to allow the U.S. to refocus its attention more firmly on Afghanistan.

Reaction came from everywhere.

In Iraq, where several TV stations showed Obama’s speech live, some citizens applauded the ironclad withdrawal plan while others questioned whether Iraq could defend itself alone.

The president, who ran against the war in his upstart White House bid, said the Iraq conflict is one huge, painful lesson.

Admonishing the Bush era, Obama said the United States must no longer go to war without clearly defined goals. He said it must communicate the costs of war clearly, use diplomacy as well as military might, not go it alone in security.

“I promise you that I will only send you into harm’s way when it is absolutely necessary, and provide you with the equipment and support you need to get the job done,” Obama told the Marines. □



# Airlines, plane maker sued over crash near Buffalo

By **CAROLYN THOMPSON**  
**Associated Press Writer**  
BUFFALO, New York (AP) — Relatives of a passenger killed when a commuter plane crashed outside Buffalo have sued Continental Airlines and the flight's operators, claiming the aircraft had inadequate deicing equipment and an improperly trained crew. The lawsuit, filed Thursday in federal court in Buffalo, appears to be the first litigation spawned by the Feb. 12 crash in Clarence. Continental Connection Flight 3407 plunged from the sky in icy weather and landed on a house, killing one occupant of the home and 49 people aboard the plane. Investigators have not determined a cause, but ice has been mentioned as a

possibility, as well as the crew's actions. The family of crash victim Susan Wehle, of Amherst, New York, alleges negligence and is seeking unspecified damages. The suit names Continental Airlines, based in Houston; Pinnacle Airlines of Memphis, Tennessee, and a subsidiary operating the flight, Colgan Air of Manassas, Virginia; and Bombardier Aerospace, based in Montreal, which made the Dash 8 Q400 aircraft. Pinnacle, Continental and Bombardier declined Friday to comment on the lawsuit, filed by aviation disaster specialists Baum, Hedlund, Aristei & Goldman of Los Angeles. Colgan Air previously defended its training programs and the pilot after investigators said they would look into

whether the crew overreacted to a sensor indicating the plane, flying on autopilot, was slowing down dangerously. On its Web site, Colgan calls the Q400 "a sophisticated, highly capable aircraft that is designed for cold-weather operations." Bombardier spokesman John Arnone, who wouldn't comment directly on the litigation, noted that 230 of the Q400 planes are in use all over the world, including frequently cold areas such as Quebec and Norway. But attorney Ronald Goldman of the firm that filed the lawsuit called the plane's deicing system antiquated. The system includes strips of rubber-like material on the wings and tail that expand to break up ice, then contract and



Firefighters look over the wreckage of Continental flight 3407 which lies amid smoke at the scene after crashing into a suburban Buffalo home and erupting into flames late Thursday Feb. 12, 2009, killing all 48 people aboard and at least one person on the ground, according to authorities. The 74-seat Q400 Bombardier aircraft, operated by Colgan Air, was flying from Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey to Buffalo Niagara International Airport

*Associated Press*

## Illinois mystery: Placentas found in sewage system

By **CARLA K. JOHNSON**  
**Associated Press**  
CHICAGO — Someone is disposing of placentas in a central Illinois sewage system and authorities want it to stop. Workers in Urbana on Thursday found a placenta in a filter that keeps large objects out of the sewage treatment plant — the third such find this year. So police have enlisted medical experts. "It was one of the weirdest calls I've ever received," said Julie Pryde, who heads the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District. Urbana Police Lt. Bryant Seraphin remembered: "She said, 'You found a WHAT in the WHERE?'" The unprecedented finds have officials wondering if a midwife or veterinarian, stressed by economic woes, has been avoiding the expense of paying for a medical waste disposal service. Police aren't aiming for an arrest, Seraphin said, and nobody suspects foul play. The umbilical cords, still attached, were cut clean. Placentas are potentially infectious, although health officials said the risk to the public is low. They just want

the dumping to stop and hope publicity will achieve that. They are keen on solving the mystery. Storm sewers and toilets drain

to the system, so those seem to be the likeliest routes, Pryde said, "but I don't think my personal toilet at home would be able to flush a placenta." □

expand again to break up new ice. "It's a system that cannot guarantee the safety of passengers on a commercial flight," Goldman said by phone Friday. "It should never be flown in these kinds of conditions." Goldman, also a pilot, faulted the crew for flying on autopilot, which he said concealed signs

of trouble until it was too late. The plane, which had taken off from Newark, N.J., crashed six miles from Buffalo Niagara International Airport. The investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board is expected to take a year or more. Goldman said his firm would conduct its own investigation. □

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# Obama budget gives Dems a roadmap, GOP a target



Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., ranking Republican on the Senate Budget Committee, right, accompanied by Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., ranking Republican on the House Budget Committee, gestures during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009, to discuss President Barack Obama's fiscal 2010 federal budget which was released Thursday.

*Associated Press*

By DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP)— With ambitious plans to change U.S. health care, energy, farm payments, taxes and more, President Barack Obama's budget gives congressional Democrats goals to reach for. And highlights political targets for Republicans to aim at. "Our work is well cut out for us," the leader of the

House of Representatives, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, said as she praised a "wonderful blueprint" from the administration that looks beyond reviving a weak economy and restoring order to the credit markets. While Pelosi focused on calls for expanded health care, environmentally friendlier energy policy and improved education, Republicans

saw higher taxes, soaring government spending and record federal deficits in the budget released Thursday.

"I have serious concerns with this budget, which demands hardworking American families and job creators turn over more of their hard-earned money to the government to pay for unprecedented spending increases," said Sen. Mitch McConnell, the Senate Republican leader.

Even Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, a Democrat, had misgivings. Conrad said he worried about the budget's long-term outlook, which sees deficits fall until 2013 and then begin to rise again. "I think that requires additional work," he said Friday on CNBC television. And he predicted trouble for Obama's plan to limit itemized deductions for individuals earning more than \$200,000 and couples earning more than \$250,000. "I would put that high on the list of things that will be given a thorough scrubbing and may well not survive," he said.

Democratic leaders, who control both houses of Congress, have pledged to begin work promptly on translating Obama's blueprint into legislation.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, said earlier this week he hopes to have legislation ready for a vote within a month on an energy bill that includes steps to spur

development of renewables and increase efficiency. A key element would be a national requirement for utilities to produce a certain percentage of their electricity from the wind, sun and biofuels, he added in an Associated Press interview.

In the House, Rep. Henry Waxman, a Democrat, has pledged action on a bill combining energy issues and climate change. "Global warming is one of my key priorities. I am committed to moving a comprehensive climate and energy bill in the committee" before the end of May, he said.

A key element would be a so-called cap-and-trade system of limits and pollution allowances, especially for industries such as utilities with coal-burning power plants. The program would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions while generating revenue.

Health care legislation would come next, possibly by summer in the Senate. Nor has a decision yet been made about a timetable in the House, where Waxman's committee will again play a pivotal role. The White House has not yet named a replacement for former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, who had been in line to be the administration's point man on health care. He withdrew several weeks ago as a candidate for secretary of the Health and Human

Services Department. And Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, a dominant Democratic voice on health care, has been working from Florida while he recovers from surgery for a brain tumor.

Sen. Max Baucus, a Democrat and chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, has promised to make the legislation a top priority. He has outlined a plan that differs in some details from Obama's. For example, it contemplates taxing some health insurance benefits to raise money for expanded coverage.

Pelosi told reporters during the day that majority Democrats will have a nonbinding budget blueprint ready for a vote next month, detailing targets for spending and taxes. Senate action would follow, and agreement on a compromise would clear the way for routine spending bills that Democrats will use to underscore differences between their priorities and those of the Republicans.

Among early examples, Obama wants to increase funding for cancer research and reduce it for a proposed nuclear waste site in Nevada, a facility the president opposed in his campaign for the White House.

Obama's blueprint also envisions changes affecting entire industries, creating a series of prospective winners and losers — and political battles in the process. □

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# Family Sunday

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### NATIONAL GUARD

*Continued from Page B1*

"I don't know if crime will go up after these guys leave. But I know a lot more of us will be packing our own pieces now to make sure we're protected," said Calvin Stewart, owner of a restaurant and store, referring to his handgun.

New Orleans Police Superintendent Warren Riley said his rebuilt police department is up to the job of protecting the city. "I think we're ready to handle things," he said.

The National Guardsmen were welcomed as liberators when they arrived in force in a big convoy more than four days after Katrina struck New Orleans in August 2005 and plunged the city into anarchy. The force was eventually 15,000 strong.

Their numbers dwindled as civil authority returned in the months after the storm. But then, after a surge of bloodshed, 360 troops were dispatched in

June 2006 to help the depleted police department patrol the streets. In recent months, only a few dozen troops were still patrolling.

The Guard was used to protect the less populated sections of the city where Katrina's floodwaters left most houses uninhabitable. That included the woeful Ninth Ward, where renovated houses are outnumbered by moldy, boarded-up wrecks and weed-choked vacant lots.

In their camouflage uniforms and Humvees, the troops were often a welcome sight.

"We don't have enough cops. It's not that they're bad, it's just that there's not enough of them.

These guys are Johnny-on-the-spot when you need them," said 57-year-old Tom Hightower, who is still trying to get the mold out of his house. He added: "This is still a spooky place after dark."

The troops had full arrest powers but were required to

call New Orleans police on serious matters. In their time on the streets, Guard troops were involved in only one shooting, and the district attorney ruled it justified.

The Guardsmen answered lots of calls involving domestic violence, reported to be up in New Orleans since the hurricane, and handled car wrecks, house and business alarms and other problems.

"One of the biggest things we did was keep those places safe so people could rebuild," said Sgt. Wayne Lewis, a New Orleans native who has been patrolling the streets since January 2007. "People would put the things to rebuild in their houses and thieves would come along and take them right out again. We stopped a lot of that."

New Orleans had 210 murders in 2007, making it the murder capital of America, with the highest per-capita rate in the country. That number dropped to 179 in 2008.



Louisiana National Guard Lt. Ronald Brown, Jr., right, and Sgt. Wayne Lewis pose for a photograph in front of the Louisiana Superdome before starting their patrol in New Orleans, Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009. The last units of the Louisiana National Guard, which came to town after Hurricane Katrina in August of 2005, are pulling out Sunday.

*Associated Press*

Nevertheless, "crime continues unacceptably high," said to be this community's No. 1 concern. Even with the lower numbers it is still Rafael Goyeneche, executive director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission. □



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# Netanyahu and Livni fail to agree on coalition



Incoming Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, and Israel's Foreign Minister and Kadima Party leader Tzipi Livni sit together prior to their meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel, Friday, Feb. 27, 2009. Netanyahu is trying to convince the centrist Livni to join the government he is forming, but the two differ on their approach to peace talks with the Palestinians.

Associated Press

By ARON HELLER

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel edged closer to a narrow government of hawks and right-wing religious parties on Friday after Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu failed to persuade his moderate rival, Tzipi Livni, to join him in a wide coalition that could help avert a showdown with the new U.S. administration. Livni refuses to sign up unless Netanyahu openly endorses the vision of dividing the land into separate Jewish and Palestinian states.

“Two states for two peoples is not an empty slogan — it is the only way Israel can keep its existence as a Jewish, democratic state,” Livni said after their meeting. “Just as I cannot accept vague statements, neither can the world. This is a matter of principle, not semantics.” Netanyahu said he had made Livni a generous offer of partnership and said he intended to promote the diplomatic process with the Palestinians. Nevertheless, he said he encountered a “complete rejection of unity from Ms. Livni.”

The breakdown in their talks came as President Barack Obama's Mideast envoy George Mitchell was in the region meeting with Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

Livni did not shut the door completely on any possibility of an agreement, and Netanyahu still has five weeks to cobble together a government. The two deadlocked in the Feb. 10 election, but Netanyahu was appointed to form a coalition because he had greater support from the elected lawmakers. Netanyahu can form a hard-line government that will give him a 65-seat majority in the 120-seat parliament. But that narrow margin means virtually any of his partners could bring down the government in any dispute. A centrist government with Livni would also help Netanyahu ward off international pressure on Israel and avoid a clash with a U.S. president who has promised to become “aggressively” involved in pursuing Mideast peace.

Livni, who heads the centrist Kadima Party and served as chief negotiator with the Palestinians, supports the formation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Netanyahu does not, and the two have been unable to bridge the gap. Meanwhile, the recent flurry of diplomatic activity in the region continued Friday, with European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana touring Gaza. He was the highest ranking European official to visit the territory

since it was overrun by Hamas in June 2007, and his visit was a sign of increasing international engagement in the long-isolated Palestinian enclave.

Solana did not meet with representatives of Hamas, boycotted internationally as a terror group. The international community has demanded the group recognize Israel and renounce violence, conditions it has refused.

“I came to express solidarity with the people of Gaza and to tell them that we will be helping them in the reconstruction process,” Solana said, standing at the ruins of the American International School of Gaza, destroyed by Israeli bombs during its three-week offensive against Hamas militants.

On Monday, international donors will meet in Egypt for a conference on Gaza's reconstruction.

The Palestinians are seeking \$2.8 billion dollars. The EU's executive office, the European Commission, said Friday it was earmarking \$556 million for the Palestinians in 2009, though it was not clear how much of that was aimed at Gaza. The U.S. is expected to pledge \$900 million at next week's conference, which U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will attend.

At the same time, Israel and Hamas are holding talks through Egyptian mediation meant to produce a long-term truce in Gaza in the aftermath of Israel's offensive against Hamas, which ended Jan. 18. Hamas wants Israel to open Gaza's blockaded border crossings, a step Israel says it won't take until Hamas returns an Israeli soldier it has held since June 2006.

Hamas is also holding talks with its rivals from Fatah aimed at ending the violent spat between them, which culminated in Hamas' rout of Fatah and takeover of Gaza in June, 2007. The goal is to forge a power-sharing agreement that will end the split, which threatens to derail the Palestinians' goal of achieving an independent state.



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PG-13	<b>HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU</b>	daily: 6:45 matinee: 1:10	9:20 late show: 11:55		
PG	<b>THE PINK PANTHER 2</b>	daily: 4:05 matinee: 12:00	6:20 2:05	8:20 late show: 10:20 12:25	
R	<b>UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS</b>	daily: 3:50 matinee: 11:55	5:50 1:50	7:55 late show: 10:00 12:00	
PG	<b>HOTEL FOR DOGS</b>	daily: 4:40 matinee: 12:20	2:25	late show:	
PG	<b>PAUL BLART: MALL COP</b>	daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:10	6:20 2:15	8:20 late show: 10:15 12:15	

AT PASEO HERENCIA					
PG-13	<b>THE UNBORN</b>	daily: 4:05 matinee: 12:00	6:00 2:00	8:05 late show: 10:05 12:05	NEW
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PG-13	<b>TAKEN</b>	daily: 4:10 matinee: 12:05	6:20 2:10	8:20 late show: 10:20 12:20	
R	<b>FRIDAY THE 13TH</b>	daily: 7:55 matinee: 10:00		late show: 12:10	
PG	<b>HOTEL FOR DOGS</b>	daily: 5:40 matinee: 1:25	3:35	late show:	
PG-13	<b>THE PINK PANTHER 2</b>	daily: 3:40 matinee: 1:40	5:50 1:40	7:50 late show: 9:55 12:00	
PG	<b>PAUL BLART: MALL COP</b>	daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:10	6:10 2:15	8:10 late show: 10:15 12:25	


DRIVE-IN February 26 – March 1	
PG	<b>INKHEART</b> Thursday: 8:00 Friday: 8:00 & 10:30
PG-13	<b>YES MAN</b> Saturday: 8:00 & 10:30 Sunday: 8:00

**Matinee: sat & sun | Late show: fri & sat**


# KNOWLEDGE

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## Canada gets tough on gangs



Prime Minister Stephen Harper, left, speaks while Vancouver Police Chief Jim Chu, right, looks on during a roundtable meeting on gang violence in Vancouver, Canada on Thursday Feb. 26, 2009. Harper announced a new law Thursday to crack down on an unprecedented wave of gang-related murders in Vancouver, which is preparing to host the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Canada's Conservative government proposed a new law Friday that would raise jail sentences for drug crimes, following a surge in gang-related violence in this city as it prepares to host the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson

said the new law was intended to address an unprecedented wave of violence that has seen six people gunned down in the past month.

"If you want to bring drugs into this country you are going to jail," the federal minister told reporters, adding that the proposed changes target gangs and organized crime,

sending a clear message to drug traffickers.

Nicholson's announcement comes a day after Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced a new law raising the sentence for gang killings to at least 25 years without parole, as part of an effort to get tough on organized crime. The proposed law will also set

*Associated Press*

a minimum four-year jail term for drive-by shootings.

The proposed changes to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act include a mandatory two-year sentence for dealing drugs like cocaine, heroin or methamphetamines to youth and a two-year mandatory sentence for running large-scale marijuana growing operations.

The proposed changes would

increase the maximum sentence for marijuana production to 14 years, from seven, and impose tougher penalties for trafficking in so-called date-rape drugs.

Vancouver is a major port of entry for the illegal drug trade, and gang-related violence has spread beyond the city's notoriously squalid Downtown Eastside. □



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# The hottest place to be cool is Bugaloe!



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People from all over the world get together at Bugaloe: they have a few drinks,

a bite to eat, they dance and sway and make new friends. If you have gotten curious here and now, check out the website [www.bugaloe.com](http://www.bugaloe.com) and you will see at one glance what we are talking about. No words will be needed anymore. Surf to the website for the Bugaloe Event Calendar or leave a note in the Guestbook.

**Bugaloe's daily Happy Hours** are considered the starting signal for an evening of partying on the island. Locals mingle with visitors and raise their glasses. When you get hungry, order a scrumptious burger, a gourmet pizza, tasty wings or a salad and party on. The night is young, the world is going crazy and you are right in the middle of a super happening. What's not to like? A twice-a-month live breakfast radio show on Fri-

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**A hot tip:** Bugaloe Beach Bar puts on live bands on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Joyride, Lotus (YouTube keywords: lotus, bugaloe) and Marisela & Aquarius (YouTube keywords: marisela, confidential, 2008) are playing the stars from the sky. These bands are drawing the crowds, so be there or be square! On those nights the young as well as the young-at-heart are having the time of their lives. Photos of Bugaloe's happy times can be viewed at [www.bugaloe.com](http://www.bugaloe.com). Don't forget to put your own movie of you and your friends having a whale of a time at Bugaloe on the web and enjoy being famous, crazy and hilarious. So upload, upload! We are looking forward to seeing you on YouTube or live in action.





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The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more. The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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Enjoy the Fresh Catch of the Day with Live Music in the back ground

# "Fishes and More" leads the way in seafood dining



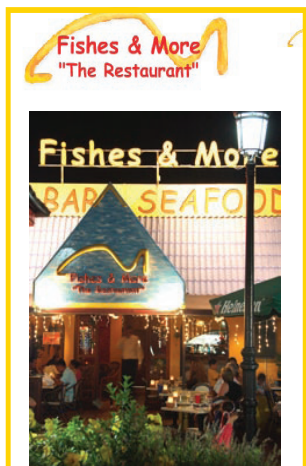
**PALM BEACH** - Fishes and More Restaurant opened up in the Arawak Gardens just 3 and a half years ago and has been a great success since day one.

**PALM BEACH** - Fishes and More Restaurant opened up in the Arawak Gardens just 3 and a half years ago and has been a great success since day one. Word on the street is that once you eat at Fishes and More, consider yourself addicted. The owners Jeroen Kuling and Hans Heijink together with the staff Romalo, Heidi, Mariella, Denise and Chef Gerben work hard keeping the restaurant open 7 days a week from 4 pm till 11pm for everyone to enjoy. The ambiance at the restaurant is out of this world, whether dining inside in the relaxed air-conditioned

dinning room or outside on the terrace to enjoy the tropical breeze and daily live music. Most guests come in early for the daily fresh catches, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried, pan-fried or the chef's choice. Every Wednesday, seafood specials are prepared depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. These



specials usually include fresh Caribbean lobster and pounds of peeled shrimps. Fishes and More is for everyone, from large groups, families, couples and even singles who can't shake the seafood addiction can stop in for a fix of Pina Colada Shrimp. For those who like to try something different or have had their fill of spectacular seafood, the chef prepares a wonderful array of filet mignon, rib eye, wiener schnitzel, veal parmesan, and pasta specialties. Great Seafood!!! Fun and relaxed atmosphere. Right across from the high rise hotels. It is worth the short walk to a wonderful dinner ☐



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\*\*\*\*\*  
Hot chocolate fudge Sunday  
All main courses are served with potatoes au Gratin & fresh vegetables

The early bird menu is priced at \$ 21,75  
Service charge not included.

Open Daily from 4pm - 11pm

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# Taste of Belgium - The Chocolaterie



**ORANJESTAD** - The Renaissance Mall in the heart of Oranjestad offers world class shopping, stunning designer stores and fantastic buys. While the search for ultimate happiness is on full blast one might pass by Taste of Belgium's Chocolaterie, a slice of paradise for anyone with a sweet tooth. The name Callebaut will ring a bell with knowledgeable chocolate lovers: they know that the only the very best is good enough.

The elegant shop's

chocolates of Taste of Belgium follow the latest trends and are always the height of fashion.

The store is of course at its very best during Valentine's, Easter, Mother's Day and Christmas, but recently Halloween also has become a major highlight, with very funny and scary sweets.

decorations are invariably stunning. The chocolaterie's small terrace is doing a booming business as a café and cappuccinos, lattes and frappes are served with delicious pastries, cakes or sandwiches. Seated in a comfortable chair one can witness formerly drooping shoppers continue their quest revived and full of energy after a spell at Taste of Belgium ☐



## TASTE OF BELGIUM

The chocolaterie forms part of the 'One delicious island' Taste of Belgium family, which consists of the popular Bistro in the Paseo Herencia Mall across from the Holiday Inn Resort, the recently opened Papillon Restaurant at The Village, where casual fine dining and a superb French-Caribbean cuisine is drawing those with unerringly good taste, and the Taste of Belgium Catering Service at Bubali for any of your parties, luncheons, dinners, weddings or receptions.

For information, please mail to:

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[catering@tasteofbelgium.aw](mailto:catering@tasteofbelgium.aw)  
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# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

# McIlroy moves into quarterfinals of Match Play



Phil Mickelson watches his tee shot on the par-3 third hole during his third round match against Stewart Cink at the World Golf Championships Accenture Match Play Championship, Friday, Feb. 27, 2009, in Marana, Ariz.

*Associated Press*

## NHL Roundup

# Potent Bruins thrash Ducks

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Bruins made it 12 goals in two games with a 6-0 win over the Anaheim Ducks in a violent NHL clash on Thursday.

Coming off a 6-1 win on Tuesday, the Eastern Conference-leading Bruins responded to a brawl by scoring two goals in as many minutes at the end of the second period, putting them 5-0 up at the break.

There were 58 penalty minutes played and a number of violent outbreaks.

Boston goalie Tim Thomas stopped 35 shots for his fourth shutout of the season, Michael Ryder had two goals and an assist in his second game back after facial surgery, and Chuck Kobasew also scored twice.

The result meant the Bruins had already matched last year's win total of 42, with still another 20 regular season games to go.

### Sharks 2, Senators 1

In Ottawa, San Jose edged Ottawa to stay a point in front of Boston in the fight over the league's best record.

The Sharks trailed 1-0 until Milan Michalek and Patrick Marleau scored power-play goals 1:18 apart in the second period.

Brian Boucher made 23 saves for the Western Conference leaders.

### Panthers 2, Rangers 1

In New York, David Booth and Nathan Horton scored a minute

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MARANA, Arizona (AP) — Teenage sensation Rory McIlroy did his part to put some excitement back into the Accenture Match Play Championship, crushing the player who knocked out Tiger Woods to advance to the quarterfinals on Friday. The same could not be said for Phil Mickelson, who failed to reach the weekend for the fifth straight year. McIlroy, the 19-year-old from Northern Ireland who keeps adding credentials to be the next young star, built a 4-up lead after six holes and never gave Tim Clark of South Africa a chance to catch up in a 4-and-3 victory.

One day after Clark was practically flawless in sending Woods home early from Dove Mountain, hardly anything went right. It was the third straight time that a player who beat Woods in this tournament lost in the next round.

The atmosphere was far more subdued than earlier in the week, when Woods made his heralded return to golf from knee surgery after an eight-month absence, only to last two rounds.

The gallery spread itself among the eight matches, and there were some entertaining ones, for sure. Mickelson had not trailed all week until Stewart Cink ran off three straight birdies to build a 3-up lead after four

holes. Mickelson rallied to square the match twice, and both times let it get away. Mickelson hit his tee shot into a desert bush on the 15th hole and fell behind, then tied it on the 16th when Cink missed the green. But on the next hole, Mickelson's third shot from a desert waste area sailed over the gallery, and he missed a 4-foot bogey putt to lose the hole. His last chance was a 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole, which missed below the cup.

Ross Fisher won the first of three England-U.S. matches, easily defeating Jim Furyk, 4 and 3.

Sean O'Hair had a 3-up lead with four holes to play over Ian Poulter, while Justin Leonard and Oliver Wilson were headed for overtime. Another match ended early under the wrong kind of circumstances. Luke Donald of England was 1 down to Ernie Els on the 18th tee when he took a practice swing with his driver, felt a twinge in his left wrist and conceded the match.

Donald, who had surgery on that wrist last summer and missed two majors, felt some pain on his tee shot at the 17th, and took extra time hitting his bunker shot to 12 feet.

"For the first time since coming back, I felt a little twinge in my wrist," Donald said. "So rather than risk it, I wanted to play it safe and concede the match to Ernie. Hopefully, I've just pulled it a little bit and nothing serious."

McIlroy won the Dubai Desert Classic last month for his first European Tour victory and already was No. 17 in the world ranking.



New Jersey Devils goaltender Martin Brodeur, right, makes a save on a shot by Colorado Avalanche winger Milan Hejduk, of the Czech Republic, during the first period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009 in Newark, N.J.

*Associated Press*

apart in the third for Florida, spoiling New York coach John Tortorella's home debut.

Tortorella replaced the fired Tom Renney on Monday and lost his debut Wednesday in a shootout in Toronto. New York has dropped 12 of 14.

The result moved the Panthers level with the Rangers on 70 points, tied for sixth in the East.

### Devils 4, Avalanche 0

In Newark, New Jersey, goalie Martin Brodeur made an impressive comeback from elbow surgery, recording his 99th career regular-season shutout as New Jersey beat Colorado.

Brodeur made 24 saves in his first game since early November.



# Ramirez rejects L.A. Dodgers' latest offer

PHOENIX (AP) — Star slugger Manny Ramirez has rejected yet another offer from the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Dodgers announced Thursday that the outfielder's agent Scott Boras had declined a \$25 million, one-year contract with a \$20 million player option for 2010. It was the club's fourth offer to Ramirez this offseason. "We want Manny back, but we feel we are negotiating against ourselves," Dodgers owner Frank McCourt said in a statement. "When his agent finds those 'serious

offers' from other clubs, we'll be happy to restart the negotiations." General manager Ned Colletti and McCourt met Wednesday in Los Angeles with Boras. The offer is similar to the two-year, \$45 million deal with a buyout or club option that the Dodgers put on the table in November. Ramirez refused the offer and the Dodgers withdrew their proposal. The team came back with a one-year, \$25 million offer, but Ramirez turned that down as well. Ramirez also turned down salary arbitration.

"Even with an economy that has substantially eroded since last November, out of respect for Manny and his talents, we actually improved our offer," McCourt said. "So now, we start from scratch." A message left with Boras was not immediately returned. Colletti said there was no hard deadline, and Ramirez was not yet needed in spring training. "With the season starting a week later, it's a little bit more flexible than it might have been a year ago," Colletti said. The Dodgers open the regular



In this Sept. 12, 2008 file photo, Los Angeles Dodgers' Manny Ramirez smiles after hitting a single to load the bases against the Colorado Rockies in a baseball game in Denver. The Dodgers announced Thursday night, Feb. 26, 2009, the star outfielder's agent Scott Boras had declined the two-year \$45 million offer, the club's fourth this offseason.

*Associated Press*

season April 6 at San Diego. Ramirez hit .396 with 17 home runs and 53 RBIs in 53 games with the Dodgers last

season while leading them to the National League West title after he was acquired from Boston. □



Cleveland Cavaliers' Lorenzen Wright, left, Anderson Varejao, center, of Brazil, and LeBron James (23) sit on the bench in the final minutes of the Cavaliers' 93-74 loss to the Houston Rockets in an NBA basketball game Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009, in Houston.

*Associated Press*

## NBA Roundup

### James no assists for first time in career

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets held LeBron James without an assist for the first time in his career and limited the Cleveland Cavalier to their lowest score of the season, recording a 93-74 win in the NBA on Thursday.

Yao Ming scored 28 points for Houston and Ron Artest added 15 while harassing James on defense most of the night, leading the Rockets to their sixth consecutive victory and ninth straight at home. James scored 21 points, but went just 7-for-21 from the field with three turnovers. It was the first time in 493 NBA games that he failed to record an assist.

The Cavaliers had season-low point totals in the first (11) and third (10) quarters, and their 34 percent shooting (27-for-80) was also a season worst.

The defeat ended the Cavs' five-game winning streak. They also may have lost forward Ben Wallace, who left in the third quarter with a broken right leg.

Houston had 25 assists, its sixth straight game with 20 or more, and went 8-for-19 from 3-point range.

#### Lakers 132, Suns 106

In Los Angeles, the hosts scored 70 points in the first half and rolled past the Steve Nash-less Suns for their sixth consecutive victory.

Kobe Bryant had 22 points and eight rebounds for the league-leading Lakers, while former teammate Shaquille O'Neal had 12 points and seven rebounds for the Suns, who trail first-place Los Angeles by 15 games in the Pacific Division. □

# Haynesworth gets 7-yr, \$100M deal from Redskins

By JOSEPH WHITE

AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON — Albert Haynesworth walked into the front lobby of Redskins Park on the first day of free agency. After being congratulated by front office chief Vinny Cerrato, the All-Pro defensive tackle turned and introduced his mother. Once the pleasantries were done, the parties went to work — completing the paperwork on a seven-year contract that is worth about \$100 million and includes an NFL-record \$41 million in guaranteed money.

The Washington Redskins were back to their old form as champions of the offseason, snagging the biggest name available in the first few hours of the open market. They agreed to terms with Haynesworth around dawn Friday, culminating a sleepless night that included a just-after-midnight deal — six years, \$54 million, \$22.5 million guaranteed — to re-sign cornerback DeAngelo Hall.

"Wow! Amazing!" said Redskins defensive tackle Lorenzo Alexander, providing the almost universal reaction to Haynesworth's guaranteed payout, which tops the \$37 million the Atlanta Falcons gave Michael Vick in 2004.

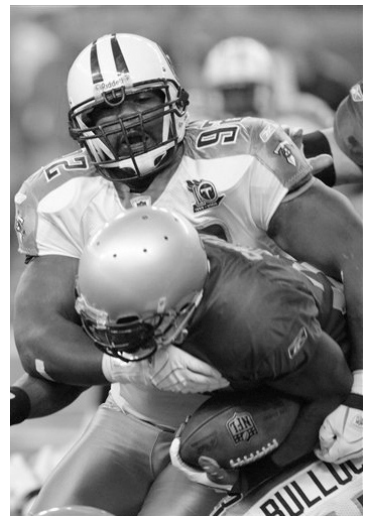
All this from a team that has laid off at least 30 people since the start of the year in two rounds of cutbacks. The Redskins are among 10 to 12 teams that have cut staff because of the economic crisis, according to an NFL estimate, but marquee free agents appear recession-proof.

Not so fortunate was Shawn Springs. Expensive and often injured, the 33-year-old cornerback was deemed no longer needed once Hall was kept in the fold.

From Bruce Smith in 2000 to London Fletcher in 2007, the Redskins' Dan Snyder made his NFL name as the owner who always got the player he wanted, even if it meant overpaying for players who didn't pan out. Snyder's deep pockets have produced only one playoff win this decade.

Last year, the team was uncharacteristically quiet, making no major signings during the entire free agency period. An 8-8 season with an aging roster — along with the fact that the Redskins have only four picks in upcoming draft — prompted Snyder to revert to his old ways.

Whatever the money, the Redskins get credit for targeting two deficiencies from last



This is a Nov. 27, 2008 file photo showing Tennessee Titans defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth (92) tackling Detroit Lions running back Kevin Smith in an NFL football game in Detroit. The Washington Redskins agreed to terms Friday Feb. 27, 2009 on a seven-year deal with approximately \$100 million with free agent defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth.

*Associated Press*

season: sacks and turnovers. Haynesworth should help with the sacks. The 27-year-old lineman got to the quarterback a career-high 8 1/2 times last year, more than one-third of a Washington team total (24) that ranked tied for 28th in the NFL. If nothing else, he will divert attention away from defensive ends Jason Taylor and Andre Carter, who managed 7 1/2 sacks between them in 2008. □



# Classified

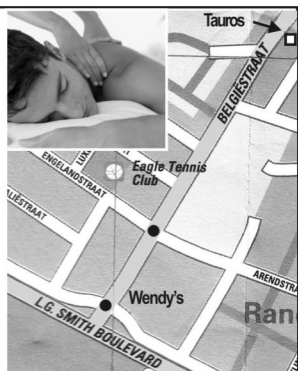
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Calendar Period: February 2009 - March 2009		
week# 8, Dutch Village - studio R#133, Poolview - US\$7,500	week# 9, La Cabana - 1Bdr delux R#401d, OceanFront- US\$20,000	week# 9 - DiviLinks - Studio R#4205, poolv. - US\$15,000
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-2Bdr Supreme, OceanFront US\$30,000	Week# 7 Aruban Resort - 3Bdr R#2506a, poolv - US\$30,000	week# 7+8- DiviLinks - Studio. R#4205, Poolview- US\$30,000
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1B RoyalClubGrandLe.-US\$32,000	Week# 5 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr. R#613, PoolOcean-US\$18,000	week#13+14 DiviPhoenix-2Bdr R#306, OceanV.-US\$22,000P.W
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1B Delux, OceanView- US\$14,000	Week# 6 - The Mill Resort-1Bdr R#220a, Poolview - US\$7,500	Week#8 Renaissance - 1Bdr R#2546, Oceanfrnt-US\$11,500
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-JR Suite - OceanView - US\$16,000	FloatingW#18-50 Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, Oceanview -US\$ 20,000	week# 9 - Renaissance - 1Bdr R#2438- Oceanview-US\$10,500
week# 1-17OccidentalGrand-JR. Suite, Oceanview - US\$13,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Mariott Ocean 1Bdr, OceanView-US\$18,000	week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr. R#1001, Oceanv- US\$10,000
week# 1-17OccidentalGrand-EX Studio, PoolView - US\$9,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Mariott Ocean 1Bdr, OceanFront-US\$23,000	week#9-DiviPhoenix-2Bdr/2bath. R#211, Oceanfront- US\$20,000
week# 7, - Divi Phoenix - 1Bdr R# 501, OceanView.-US\$11,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Mariott Ocean 2Bdr, OceanView-US\$26,000	2xweek#1-17Occidental-Bdrsup. Oceanfro-US\$35,000Bothweeks
week# 5 + 6-La Cabana - 1Bdr R#401d-OceanFront-US\$18,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Mariott Ocean 2Bdr, OceanFront-US\$60,000	week# 3 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#209-OceanFront- US\$10,000
week#10+11-Renaissance -1Bdr R#121- poolOcean- US\$20,000	week# 14-DiviPhoenix - Studio. R#1004, Oceanview - US\$5,000	week# 5 - Aruban Resort - 1-Bdr R#5537g-Poolview-US\$7,000
week# 7 - Renaissance - 1Bdr R#2537, PoolOcean-US\$15,000	week#10, DutchVillage - 2Bdr R#212, on the beach-US\$20,000	weeks# 8, - La Cabana - 1Bdr R#407a, Oceanview-US\$9,000
week# 12 -Renaissance.-1Bdr. R#2327, PoolOcean-US\$11,000	week# 6+7, Aruban Resort-1Bdr R#4541, Poolview-US\$8,000pw	week# 9, DutchVillage - 1Bdr R#123, on the beach-US\$8,000
PlatinumW#1-17, Marriott Surf - 3bdr, OceanView -US\$50,000	week# 11, DutchVillage - 2Bdr. R#46/49, O.The B.-US\$18,000	week# 4 - DiviLinks - Studio. R#2108, Poolv - US\$14,000
PlatinumW#1-17, Marriott Surf 2bdr, Gardenview-US\$25,000	week# 6, Costa Linda - 2 Bdr. R#1010, Oceanview-US\$24,000	week# 10-DiviVillage -studio R#3101, Poolview-US\$10,000
week# 8, La Cabana -2Bdr R#301E, OceanFr-US\$25,000	week#9, La Cabana B.R.C- stu. R#444B, OceanPool-US\$7,000	week# 5- DiviLinks - Studio R#2214, PoolV.- US\$14,000
week# 13, Renaissance-1Bdr. R#2544, Oceanview-US\$10,000	week# 4+5, Costa Linda -2Br R#4019, OceanP-US\$60,000	week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 2 Bdr R#302, OceanFront-US\$23,000
week# 3+4 La Cabana -2Bdr. R#346E, OceanFr-US\$25,000pw	week# 4 + 5 DiviPhoenix -studio R#108, Oceanfr.-US\$12,000pw	week# 7-DiviPhoenix - studio R#105, OceanPo, US\$11,500
week#5+6La Cabana-2Bdr. R#346EOceanFr-US\$25,000pw	week#10, DutchVillage -1 Bdr. R#28, on the beach-US\$9,000	week#9+10ArubanResort -1Bdr R#2510, Poolview-US\$7,500p.w
week# 12 Costa Linda - 2Bdr. R#309, Oceanview- US\$18,000	2x week2-17, OccidentalGr-1Bd. supreme, Oceanfr. - US\$35,000	week# 11-Divi village -Studio R#8202, Oceanview-US\$10,000
week#-7, Renaissance S.- 1Bdr R#2537, Poolocean-US\$15,000	week# 15, CasaDelMar- 2Bdr. R#1223, OceanFront-US\$20,000	week# 5&6-La Cabana - 2Bdr R#440b&c, Oce/p-US\$20,000pw
Platinum W#1-17.Mariott Surf. 2Bdr, OceanSide -US\$33,000	week#11, DiviPhoenix -Studio. R#1303, OceanFront-US\$5,000	week# 5 - La Cabana -1Br R#336a, Ocean/pool-US\$11,000
Platinum W#1-17.Mariott Surf. 2Bdr, OceanView US\$30,000	week# 4, ParadiseB.V - 2Bdr. R#129, Oceanfront - US\$24,000	week#11, Dutchvillage- 2Bdr R#46&49, PoolV US\$18,000pw
Week# 7, La Cabana - 1Bdr. Room#339, OceanFr-US\$8,000	week#8, Aruban Resort - 1Bdr. R#1537, Poolview - US\$9,000	week#11+12, ArubanResort-1Br R#2510, Poolview - US\$7,500
Week# 7, La Cabana - 1Bdr Room#429c, OceanVi-US\$9,000	week# 8&9, Aruban Resort,-1Bdr R#1519, Poolv- US\$18,000 p.w.	week#10, DutchVillage-1Bdr R#121, Poolview-US\$8,000

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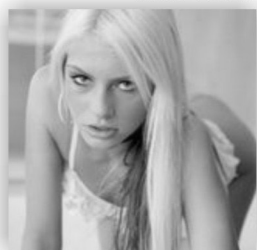
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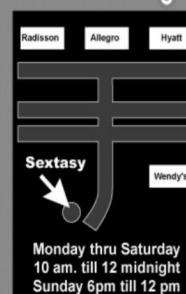
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# Presidente Chávez hará cambios equipo Gobierno en próximos días

CARACAS (Reuters) - El presidente de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, anunció el viernes que hará cambios en su gabinete y designó nuevamente a un controvertido ex ministro de convicciones socialistas como titular de Planificación, cuando la nación debe enfrentar un complicado panorama económico.

Analistas afirman que la dramática baja en los vitales ingresos petroleros del país sudamericano obligará al Gobierno a tomar algunas medidas para sortear los coletazos de la crisis financiera global, pese a que funcionarios sostienen que Venezuela está preparada y cuenta con fondos para torearla.

Luego del referendo este mes en el que fue aprobada una enmienda constitucional que permite al mandatario postularse sin límites a futuras elecciones, era esperado un cambio ministerial en la nación, que está sufriendo un frenazo en el crecimiento económico ante la caída de los precios petroleros.

“Voy a hacer varios cambios en el Gobierno en estos próximos días”, dijo Chávez durante un discurso en una homilía al aire libre.

Medios de prensa han especulado que los cambios pasan desde la vicepresidencia del país hasta ministerios clave como el de Energía y Petróleo y el de Economía y Finanzas. El anuncio se produjo luego de la divulgación de las cifras del Producto Interno Bruto (PIB) del 2008, cuando se evidenció una fuerte ralentización del crecimiento económico con respecto al año previo, pese a haber contado con el mayor precio promedio del crudo en la historia de Venezuela.

Expertos consideran que el derrumbe de los precios del crudo podría frenar las políticas socialistas más radicales del mandatario, quien ya anunció que este año sería para “consolidar” la revolución socialista que dice abanderar.

El presidente, quien dijo hace poco que la crisis global no ha tocado “ni un pelo” a Venezuela, anunció el regreso del académico Jorge Giordani al gabinete como ministro de Planificación, en sustitución de Haiman El Troudi, quien entró al tren ejecutivo en enero del 2008.

“Antenoche estuve hablando con el doctor Jorge Giordani y lo he designado ministro



Foto de archivo del presidente venezolano, Hugo Chávez, saludando a sus partidarios tras los resultados del referendo en Caracas, 19 feb 2009. Chávez, dijo que el líder cubano Fidel Castro está ‘muy bien’ de salud, luego de verlo en una sorpresiva visita a la isla caribeña el fin de semana. REUTERS/Jorge Silva (VENEZUELA)

de Planificación nuevamente. Es un buen compañero, un extraordinario venezolano”, dijo sobre el funcionario que ya lideró dos veces ese ministerio en los 10 años del Gobierno de Chávez.

Giordani, a quien Chávez ha dicho en el pasado admirar y llamar su mentor económico, fue ministro de Planificación

desde el inicio del Gobierno del militar retirado en 1999 y fue duramente criticado a causa de su manejo de la economía y sus políticas anti-multilaterales.

El veterano salió del Gabinete en el 2002 por un año y regresó en el 2003 hasta inicios del 2008, cuando Chávez hizo el último gran cambio ministerial. □

## Presidente dominicano ordena limpieza en las Fuerzas Armadas

SANTO DOMINGO (Reuters) - El presidente de República Dominicana, Leonel Fernández, anunció el viernes un proceso de limpieza al interior de las Fuerzas Armadas y la Policía Nacional, instituciones desprestigiadas por escándalos que han involucrado recientemente a sus miembros en delitos.

En un discurso transmitido al país desde el Congreso en ocasión del aniversario de la Independencia Nacional, el mandatario también lanzó medidas económicas para hacer frente al coletazo de la crisis mundial y anunció la convocatoria de una Asamblea para reformar la Constitución.

La población dominicana, ya afectada por la crisis económica, se encuentra además “perturbada y hasta atemorizada” a causa de los repetidos hechos relacionados con asaltos, crímenes y narcotráfico en los que miembros de los cuerpos de seguridad se han visto

involucrados, destacó.

“Advertimos, desde ya, que no nos temblará el pulso para limpiar y aplicar todo el peso de la ley a aquellas lacras sociales que con sus malas acciones empañan el prestigio y el honor de las Fuerzas Armadas y la Policía Nacional”, afirmó.

En mayo del año pasado, oficiales de la Marina fueron implicados en el secuestro y posterior asesinato de siete colombianos en un pueblo costero en el sur del país, en lo que autoridades definieron como un ajuste de cuentas entre narcotraficantes. □



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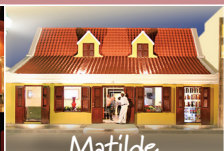
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Enjoy dinner by torch light... barefoot on the beach. Open from 7.00 am - 11.00 pm  
Bar open from 10.00 am - 01.00 am  
[www.moombabeach.com](http://www.moombabeach.com)



Sopranos Piano Bar

**Sopranos Piano Bar**  
(at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)  
Bar with Live Entertainment  
Phone: 586-8622  
Extensive Cocktail menu. Daily live music, request your favorite songs and sing along! Open from 5.00 pm - 01.00 am  
7 days a week  
[www.sopranospianobar.com](http://www.sopranospianobar.com)



Matilde

**Matilde Restaurant**  
(Downtown)  
International Cuisine  
AAA/4 Diamond Award  
Phone: 583-9200  
Lunch and Dinner  
A refined dining experience.  
Restaurant open from 11.30 am - 11.00 pm  
7 days a week  
[www.matildearuba.com](http://www.matildearuba.com)



Mambo Jambo

**Mambo Jambo Latin Bar & Grill**  
(Royal Plaza Downtown)  
International & Latin Cuisine  
Phone: 583-3632  
Lunch, Dinner, Live Bands, Salsa Dancing, Great food and good music 7 days a week. Restaurant open from 11.00 am - 09.00 pm,  
Bar open from 11.00 am - 04.00 am  
[www.mambojamboaruba.com](http://www.mambojamboaruba.com)



Hadicurari

**Hadicurari Restaurant**  
(between MooMba Beach and Marriott Surf Club)  
International and Seafood Cuisine  
Phone: 586-2288  
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner  
'Seafood with a view'  
Restaurant open from 8.00 am - 11.00 pm  
7 days a week  
[www.hadicurari.com](http://www.hadicurari.com)



**WWW.ARUBAWINEANDDINE.COM**

